

THE SCATTERD-FEW



HERE'S
JOHNNY

MAGDALLAN

scaterd-few

TOURNIQUET

ALSO:
REZ, RECON, SACRAMENT,
KERRY LIVGREN, & LARRY NORMAN

STRYPER

A NOTE FROM:



Hello Boyz:

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- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
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Last issue's photo of Roger Martinez & Rey Parra was taken by Herman Schulze (Sorry Herman!)



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Heaven's Metal is a bi-monthly
magazine that covers the world of Christian
heavy metal. Jesus is the Lord of this world.
He is Lord of all. Praise His Name!

Special thanks this issue to: Russell
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this issue out days sooner; and you, the
Heaven's Metal reader--hope ya like it.

There are a few Back Issues of HM
available. They are: #19 (Shout); #20
(Sacred Warrior); #21 (the rare Rage Of
Angels issue); #22 (Bloodgood); #23
(Vengeance); #24 (Holy Soldier); and #25
(Whitecross). All others are sold out. Each
copy is \$2.95 (Foreign orders add \$3 Air Mail
postage). **SPECIAL OFFER!** Due to an
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Lot #1 contains: Issue #'s 2, 3, 4, 5,
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Lot #4 is one copy of #17 (The
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The **NEW** Heaven's Metal T-Shirts
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it in small blue letters. The back has a rad
design of this dude worshipping at full volume
in 6 bright colors, with the "Worship At Full
Volume" slogan surrounding the image.
They're all on 100% cotton white shirts. They
are the "deluxe" models, and sell for \$16.

The original one-sided "econo"
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A TALK WITH ATYPICAL TAMPLIN

By Steve Schmutzer

(Riring! Riiing! I glance at my watch. It's exactly 8:30 AM; not a moment sooner or a moment later. Rii..."Hello, this is Steve." An energetic and enthusiastic voice answers me, "Steve buddy, this is Ken Tamplin. I guess we need an interview for Heaven's Metal, don't we?" We set it up for the following morning:)

****Ken, what really happened with Shout; specifically, what was the issue over the name "Shout", and where are the other ex-Shout members now?**

"Well, Shout ran into some disputes with another group on the East Coast that claimed having had the name 'Shout' before we did. Although we actually had an album out that was being distributed and all before them, I guess it could have been unclear as to who had the name first. We, consequently, had a choice to make: Do we dish out a large sum of money in the form of attorney's fees to deal with this other band and their dispute, or do we take the same attorney's fees and promote ourselves under a new name? As you can tell, we decided the latter.

"The timing of the whole situation seemed right for Shout to look at some other factors too. I was the only guy in the band who was working in and with the band full-time; the other three guys also held down full-time jobs, fitting the band's demands in the best they could. Chuck King was needing some more realistic income, and Loren was needing a change with his family, his new baby, and all. Decisions were made that this was the best time to reorient ourselves, and start up a new band with new members. It was also about that time that Lanny Cordola, who is my ex-guitar teacher, came into the picture, and that helped spawn the direction I'm now headed with Magdallan."

****Ken, various questions and rumors seem to be floating around regarding your current relationship with Chuck King. The notion is held in some circles that you and Chuck left on bad terms. Could you elaborate on this?**

"That comes as a bit of a surprise in some ways, and not a surprise in others. I think that any time a band breaks up, even for reasons that could be purely professional, people presume the worst. With all the celebrated breakups in the music industry, I guess I can see why people tend to make more of an issue of these things than needs to happen. Chuck decided to leave the music scene for reasons void of any hard feelings. I love Chuck a great deal. We get along super, and we still do a lot of things together. I have full respect for the guy. I hope this helps to clear that matter up."

****Tell us a little more about Magdallan.**

"I'd love to. Magdallan is like nothing you've ever heard before. It has hints of bands like Foreigner, Aerosmith, Whitesnake, Queen, and late Yes. I would call it intelligent rock, but it's not at all wimpy. It'll satisfy a lot of very hard rock fans, and it'll please the metal fans too. We're doing some interesting things with the project. For example, we're using horns, violins, and cellos on some of the pieces, and we have this one number that has this wonderful 300-voice acapella input on it. It's fabulous! There's a lot of facets to this Magdallan album; it's very different. It'll be on Chameleon/Capital Records."

****What about the various members of Magdallan?**

"Well, at this point it's myself, Lanny, and a variety of musicians from different backgrounds. The quality of musicianship is excellent, and we've tried to get the 'best man for the job' in each individual demand of the record. I want to avoid having Magdallan be the 'Ken and Lanny show,' so eventually we will hold formal auditions and put together a top-notch band that will have quality input and performance from each member. We'll know more about all this by the time the album gets released."

****And when will that be?**

"We're looking at the first part of 1991 for the debut album's release."

****Comment on the origin of the name "Magdallan".**

"The name Magdallan is actually Lanny's idea. It's derived from Mary Magdallan in the Bible, a woman who was caught in the act of her sin, but through God's grace and forgiveness became a wonderful example of what God can do with a person. For us, Magdallan conveys the idea of 'bad guys gone good.' We realize from where we came, and we're trusting God to use us for His purposes ahead."

****You have a recent solo album that you've done; isn't that correct?**

"Yes it is; Frontline is releasing it really soon."

****Tell me about it.**

"Well, it's kind of a 'Ken Tamplin and friends' deal. It's called 'An Axe To Grind', and it is a total guitar record! This is by far the best thing I've completed to date. It goes straight for the throat and spares no punches at all! There's a lot of different people contributing on it; fans may recognize a lot of familiar names from various big and well-known secular groups. I'm really pleased with

the efforts put forth by a friend of mine, Scott Vanzan, on the record. He's kind of a local boy, but wow, what a guitarist; he's amazing! Wait till you hear some of the stuff he does! I'm very excited about this particular album!"

****This last year has been a special one for you in CCM circles. A number of recognitions have come your way: the Dove Award for "Metal song of the year", "Favorite metal act" from Harvest Rock Syndicate magazine, the "Reader's Choice favorite metal album" from Contemporary Christian Magazine, and others. It could all be kind of heady. How are you finding yourself dealing with all the awards and recognitions that are coming your way?**

"Yeah, I've really been blessed. I guess first of all I want to say it's a privilege to play for and minister to the fans. They're wonderful! But, I want to emphasize that all good things are totally a gift from the Lord. We are--and I mean we really are--in serious trouble when we assume credit for any portion of God's grace to us. I'm only doing what I'm doing because God has permitted it, and has seen fit to work in spite of who I am. He deserves all the credit and recognition; that's totally important!"

****Tell me about a typical Tamplin day.**

(Laughter) "You're serious?"

****Yeah, I am, a glimpse into the routine and habits of Christian music's performers sometimes helps the fans and followers to better understand the person they only see on stage.**

"Nothing is typical, man. 'Atypical' is much more like it. For example, this week I've got a whole series of commitments. They're all different, and virtually all of them are related to my musical endeavors, but I'm in and out of a great variety of projects and situations as a result of it. It seems like I never have enough time to do all the things I need to do. Fortunately, I don't need much sleep. I only get about four to five hours of sleep a night; I go to bed sometime between midnight and 1:00 AM, and I always get up somewhere between 5:00-5:30 AM. I always give myself 45 minutes to an hour in the Word and in prayer. After that it's practicing my guitar for two to three hours and then voice training for a couple of hours. I set high demands on myself. I believe in quality, both in the individual and his art; this is the way I achieve that quality in myself."

****It takes a lot of self-discipline, doesn't it?**

"It does. That's something I really believe in, self-discipline. I'm a very driven individual, and I have a lot to accomplish. If I



KEN & LANNY

didn't discipline myself the way I do, it'd never get done. It's just the way I am."

****Briefly address the issue of "change", and how you deal with it. You've experienced a lot of it, sometimes in a rather abrupt fashion. What does "change" mean to you?**

"Change, man, that's for sure. I've had it. I guess, first of all, I've got to say: 'the more I think I know, the more I find out I really don't know.' The more mature I become, the more I realize and experience life's 180-degree turns. I've found it increasingly important to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings in my life during periods of change. It's not easy, but I--and everybody--have to reach a point where we can rest in the fact that God's ways are not at all those of ours. Our human nature likes to learn that fact the hard way. As a result, I've graduated from the bloody-nosed school of hard knocks many, many times. Hopefully, I've learned a little more each time about the facets of change and how God would have me deal with it. It's never easy though."

****The idea of learning things the hard way prompts me to ask you what you do for encouragement, self-renewal, and inspiration during some of those times.**

"You mean just shy of crying?"

****Yes, I do.**

"Sometimes I work even harder, sort of an effort to fit seven days into one. It's absolutely devastating to have the rug pulled out from under you like I've had happen quite a few times. It just leaves me in shock sometimes. I find a great enjoyment in reading, especially ancient history. It's a sort of escape for me, but it's a profitable one too. I find that competent knowledge of ancient history fits well with a knowledge of the Word of God. Together, they become a great witnessing tool."

"My wife is a real inspiration to me too during rough times; she understands me well. I love her so much! I can't deny the fact that I definitely draw closer to God during those times as well. The Lord is continually using such times to show us we can't do it on our own strength. I guess He's showing me that He's God and I'm not. It's funny how we can lose that all-important perspective sometimes. All in all, God speaks best in the low valleys of our life; that's why we have them. Our relationship with Him is what He cares about most, and He'll do what needs to be done to get our attention."

****Comment on the fact that people will say you've abandoned your calling and ministry with some of the directions Magdallan will pursue.**

"Hmmm. First of all, I'm confident I'm right. This isn't anything that has happened without a lot of thought, counsel, and prayer. People who adhere to that mindset really limit

God and the things He can use. When I rededicated my life to the Lord at age 14, I decided not to limit God in my life. He's directing me now into Magdallan, and I have complete confidence in what He can do through me there. I've never met anybody in contemporary Christian music who knows my life, my ministry, and my heart better than I do. I come across a lot of people though, who think they do, and consequently a lot of inappropriate things are said and presumed. I just trust they'll know me by my fruit."

****The time's winding down here. It's been a privilege talking to you. Is there anything you wish to say that's really on your heart at this time?**

"I would just like to say that I am grateful for this opportunity to allow people to peer into my life and my beliefs. This world is in dire need of Jesus Christ as it's headed lightning speed into all forms of sin. I really want believers to pray earnestly for the church, the world at large, and to be serious and effective in loving and befriending each other. There's a quote that has come to mean a great deal to me lately, and I'd like to leave it with all your readers. It goes, 'Stand for what you believe in; don't believe for what you stand in.' That really says a lot to me, and I'd like to leave it as a challenge for everyone else I can deliver it to."

(Click. I hang up the phone, let out a deep breath, and flex my tired fingers. Ken Tamplin has been most inspiring to talk with; he's left me with a lot to think and write about.) HM

HAVE THEY LOST THEIR STRIPES?

By Doug Van Pelt



They say a Rolling Stone gathers no facts...or something like that, so it was up to Heaven's Metal to interview Robert Sweet and get the low-down on the band's behavior, direction, and vision. If you have any rocks in your hand, toss 'em away, have a seat and listen in as Robert and I write in the sand...er, talk together.

****Well, (you) been havin' fun with the press lately?**

"We've been having a good time. We were just gone for two weeks on a promotional tour. So far everyone we've run into has really been cool. We've had a lot of time to spend with them and explain things; but a couple of months previous, the press had fun with us...you know, in not too good of a way."

****Yeah, I know how that can be.**

"That happens, though. If someone doesn't like you, they've got the final power to make you look bad when they write something up."

****Yeah, people have personal vendettas that they use their pens with.**

"Yeah, that's not too nice either."

****Well, I just wanted you to know that I love you according to 1 Corinthians 13, which mentions not holding an accusation against you and believing the best in you. For the record: I believe that you are a Christian and a child of God; and, until you tell me otherwise, I will continue to believe that.**

"Thank you. You know what, that's something that a Christian would say. That's really cool. It seems like so many Christian people we've been running into lately have nothing to say like that at all. They have nothing good to say--it's all bad...and half those people five years ago--it was all bad too. But, that's really cool man. I really appreciate you saying that. I love you too."

****Well, why don't you give a brief explanation of the direction change, and go over the look, the lyrics, and the sound.**

"Sure. First of all, something that we've been really getting kind of upset over is this whole 'direction change' thing is being blown out of proportion so much. It started last year. Things got to the point where it was so bad that no one was even listening to the music anymore. I don't think people were even being reached for Christ anymore. Whenever Stryper would do an interview or whenever we did something on radio or tv, it would be,

'Here's the religious band,' or 'Here's the heavy metal Gospel band,' or whatever, and we were freaking out. 'This isn't what Stryper is. Stryper is a rock 'n' roll band,' and we try to do whatever we can to make Christ seem like He's something everyone should have--especially those people who listen to rock music. Well, it was getting all turned around, so when we got back from the 'In God We Trust' tour, we went, 'Okay, wait a minute: We've got to do something about this, because all there's left to do is go out next year and see the same thing happen all over again; hear the same old questions--which have nothing to do with Christ, only to do with issues...hearing the same old stupid arguments and condemnation. That's not really going anywhere. That's not why we did this with the band.

"People are now screaming, 'Big change!,' you know, 'Don't buy Stryper's new album. They totally flipped to the other side.' I've always told everybody, 'Hey, what about every single that Stryper has ever had out?' It's never mentioned the word 'God' or 'Christ' in it...ever. So, I think people are getting a little too excited. What we decided to do was to get the attention of the people that we've always tried to get the attention of: the normal rock 'n' roll fan that listens to Guns 'n' Roses, Motley Crue, or Whitesnake.

"We'd been looked at as 'these choir boys' or this kind of 'joke band' for such a long

time that we felt we had to do a few things to grab people's attention. One of them was to do a real hard record. We had a great producer on our last record, but he was a Pop producer. The record had some heavy songs on it, and I feel it was a good album, but it was a little Pop.

"This time it was, 'No go! We get a rock 'n' roll producer, or that's it.' So, we ended up with Tom Werman. We went in and said, 'We're gonna have fun with this album. It's not going to be over-done or over-produced. We're going to write lyrics to songs that have a moral meaning to them.' Nothing on the record is bad. They all have a moral statement to it.

"We're going to grab people's attention again, but not by denying Christ; not by walking away from Christ. No one's ever heard us say this--and they never will--'We're not Christians anymore,' or 'Hey, we've dropped the whole thing. We don't believe in Christ.' It wasn't that thing at all. It was just to write songs where people couldn't point a finger at us and go, 'See, we told you it's the same old thing all over.' That's what radio was doing to Stryper.

"Radio was going, 'Look, you don't have the type of music our listening audience wants to hear.' And we were going, 'Yes, we do!' But they would pick one song off the album--that they didn't even play; that wasn't a single--and they would say, 'See, this song says Jesus Christ in it. We can't play this kind of thing on big-time radio.' At that point, we were going, 'Hey. If we put out the album and it doesn't get played...What's the use?'

"We thought, 'Okay, we're going to re-define our direction here: Each song is going to have a moral statement to it, but the songs are going to be heavier. We're gonna have definite singles that can be played on the radio. We're gonna do a cover.' We're a band that hasn't peaked. We've gone up and basically stayed in one area, but we haven't shot up there big-time yet; and we want to do that. We figure that, 'The bigger the band gets, of course, the more of an opportunity to say something about Christ.' We want people to really respect the band.

"We're still Stryper...and still Stryper as can be. The look is basically the same. That's another thing that's been blown out. We still have stripes, but what is so weird is all these promotional pictures that are going out don't even show it. Each guys still has stripes, it's just that each guy has his own color. Michael and I have done the yellow and black since 1980. That's why we named the band Stryper. We love yellow and black...It's not like we said, 'Okay, we're throwing that all away and putting on blue jeans and tennis shoes and running out there...' I mean, if that was the case I wouldn't be in this band. We thought, 'Hey, it's an update. It's gonna give people something new to talk about.' The look is a little more street...a little more leather-looking.

"Another thing that I'm sure a lot of Christian people are going to freak out and assume the worst over is the Stryper logo. (The new logo doesn't have the "Isaiah 53:5" reference on it.) Our record company came to us and said, 'Look, we love your Stryper logo, but we run into so many problems with the

Isaiah. We send something out to the radio stations, they saw the Isaiah, and they wouldn't even pull the record out of the package.'

"We were going, 'Look, we don't want the Isaiah taken off.'

They say, 'Look, you've just got to do this for us. You can't spend all this money, put it out there and radio not play it. Put the Isaiah wherever you want, but just for us, at least this one time, just don't put it on the front of the album.'

"So, this is a compromise they made us do. We had to at least do something for them, because we are signed under a contract to them. I mean, sure, we could've said, 'Absolutely no way!'...but we wanted our record company to really feel involved. But anyways, on a CD, for example, when you open it up and look at the actual CD, you'll see the logo with the Isaiah printed on it.

"To round it up about the new direction, we got really tired, bud. It was almost seven years of this. In every interview we did, we had to defend ourselves; and I've literally probably done 1,000. That comment you made to me was the first time I've ever heard that. In seven years, that's a lot. You know, it just got to the point that Stryper was a weight that was just too heavy to carry. Not that it was Stryper, but, what a lot of Christian people's idea of what Stryper was became too heavy to carry. We thought that if we kinda re-shifted things around here a little bit, people would turn around and go, 'Well, why did you do that?' and we would be able to tell them, which might get the emphasis off the wrong things.

"Look, No matter what anybody else may say, we know that Jesus Christ is real..."

"I think a lot of the problem hasn't come from people who aren't Christians, but from people who are. I don't mean all Christian people...There's been some really wonderfully nice Christian people out there that have really supported the band and really helped us out.

"Benson Records dropped us, and that's okay... That's a business thing. They felt like they could do this album, but the minute they saw it, it was like, 'Oh sorry, we're gonna have to not do this album.' It's like, 'That's the thanks you get,' you know. Stryper made Benson a lot of money. We could've given it to another distributor, but Benson got it and they made a lot of money, but when we didn't follow by their little set of rules, we were dropped just as quick as throwing a man off a bridge. Maybe that's for the best, you know. Maybe that goes along with what we're trying to do here, because we never wanted a Christian

record distributor. Our company did."

**I heard with the Benson deal that their "distribution agreement with Stryper was terminated", meaning that they not only dropped this record, but also your entire back-listing. What's your reaction to that?

"Well, at first we were a little bummed out, because I'm sure they have artists on their roster who, uh, every song isn't sung about Christ. But, you know, maybe that's how it's supposed to be. I'm not saying that the people from Benson are bad guys. They said it was a business decision, but I think it was a wrong decision. Maybe they just don't know how to market this album, but I don't know why they'd drop all the rest.

"I think what's happening is that they've heard something. What really angers me is that I've talked with the head guy at Benson. For them to drop every album makes me think, you know, they're hearing something somewhere, and I don't know what they're hearing, and, you know, if they don't believe me--I don't know who they're going to believe. I have no reason to lie to anybody. I have nothing to hide. I'm pretty honest and try my best to explain everything.

"I even told the guy at Benson, 'Hey bud, look, we could've gone back in and done a special track for Benson and we could've had Mike on just a couple of the songs put in the word God and you would've accepted it. You would've said, 'Oh yeah, this is a Christian album.' The point is, you don't have to be repetitive to be sincere. You know, I think they wanted to hear the repetition. I think that's what they're locked into.

"Whatever decision they made is fine, because someone else is just going to pick it up. Another company is going to pick it up and gonna do real well with it. I've got the feeling this is going to be the biggest-selling album, and Benson's going to pick up a magazine and see us say, 'Look, no matter what anybody else may say, we know that Jesus Christ is real,' and they're going to feel real stupid because they threw all that away on something somebody somewhere probably heard. I know the lines I'm gonna hear: 'Yeah, they prayed about it and they felt it was the wrong thing to do by distributing this new evil Stryper record,' but I can't understand why they'd drop everything else.

"I mean, whatever happened to loyalty? Why can't they go, 'Hey, maybe we don't agree with this record, but you tell us you guys still believe in Christ.'

"Yeah, we do."

"Well, okay. We're behind you. Maybe we don't totally agree with this album, but for seven years you guys have done all you could to tell the world about Christ; so, we're behind ya.' But that's not the attitude. The attitude is, 'Oh sorry, we want nothing to do with you.' There's no loyalty at all. It makes me question, 'What type of Christianity people are living?' I mean, think of Christ--and, this is a whole different scenario, okay? Benson isn't a Christ, and we're not a Peter--He went to Peter and said, 'You're going to deny me, but you know what? I'm prayin' for you.' We're

not denying Christ, but, I mean, look at the seriousness of that situation. It was kind of like loyalty. He said, 'Look, you're going to make some mistakes that I already know about, and I'm going to look out for you.'

"It seems like there's no loyalty a lot of the time in the Christian marketplace. If certain head people in the business think that you're doing something wrong, they will spread a stream of things to be said about you. All of a sudden your records will start being dropped, and things will start being said. There's no loyalty. It doesn't matter that five years previous you did anything and everything you could to help reach the world for Christ.

"It's like a kid who goes to church all of his life, and, if he decides to do something that his parents disagree with--but it's not bad--and his parents kick him out of the house and say, 'Sorry, live in the streets.' None of that's really been Benson and Stryper, but we just felt really shocked that there was no loyalty. Coming from Stryper, we were having the attitude: 'Look, we'll stay with Benson--because, believe me, we've had other offers--They're a good company. They're good people. They're pros. They know what to do, and we know their hearts are in the right place; so we'll stay.' But they quickly threw us off the label. I don't know, maybe it's for the best.

"We're not moaning the blues or anything, but things have become crazy. A lot of things that we've said to people have really been blown out; like that Rolling Stone thing. It was crazy. That guy didn't ask anything about the music, all he did was ask, 'Well, hey: We've heard there was a change. Mike, what do you think about drinking? Do you drink?'

"And Mike said, 'Well look, we're no one to put anyone down for drinking; just as long as you keep it within moderation.' We're not these freaks who point a finger and go, 'Ooh, they've got the Demon Rum in their hand, and they're backslidden now.' We're not like that... 'But definitely don't overdo it. Keep it in moderation and be responsible with it. Don't drink and drive, for example, and don't let it become something that's a habit or that ruins your life. But occasionally, here or there, whatever, it's no big deal.'

"When we picked up Rolling Stone, it was completely blown out: 'They're drinking now. They're smoking now.' I've never smoked in my life. I hate smoking. I can't stand it. Rolling Stone got a lot of Christian people going, 'Oh no!' Probably about 100,000 people going, 'We're not buying the next album.'

"We never knew it would turn out like this when we started the band. A lot of people came into the picture that, if we had kept them out of the picture, I think the band would've been okay. I'm not blaming it on them, but this whole thing began to happen with a lot of publicity people and a lot of things that blew the band way out as far as the Christian thing. I think a lot of kids got to the point where the Christian thing almost scared them off. Not Christian kids, because they were going, 'Yeah, this is cool,' and we were going, 'Yeah, this is cool,' too. But, the kid that really needed to be reached somehow was kinda turning away from it.

"Say a kid out there who listens to Guns 'n' Roses, he's never heard Stryper before, but all he's ever heard is, 'Oh yeah, that's that Gospel band.' He's not going to listen. We just wanted to re-tune it a little, so that we could make it where everyone out there feels comfortable listening to Stryper. When they feel comfortable with it, I think they'll feel comfortable at least to listen to something we say in a magazine or something. Face it, if Stryper sells 5 or 6 million copies next year and we get the cover of Rolling Stone, and let's say not one word on the album says anything about Christ, and we say in the article, 'Hey look, we're proud of the fact that we believe in Jesus Christ.' I mean, at that point, isn't that enough? And, you know, some people look at us and say, 'No, it's not enough. You have to do every single thing you can.' So, in other words, don't hand out 100 tracts; hand out 10,000, and beat yourself over the head at the same time."

**Do you feel like you're respected by your peers? Why or why not?

"...what a lot of Christian people's idea of what Stryper was became too heavy to carry."

"I think by a lot of peers, yes. I think people in the industry, whoever those peers are, once they see Stryper in concert there's a lot of respect. I remember there was an A&R guy with Atlantic Records who hated us. Somehow he ended up coming to a show one night where White Lion opened up for us. He came backstage saying, 'You guys are blankity-blankity-blank GREAT! I never knew that you guys were like this. Why in the blank haven't you guys sold 3 million albums yet?' We were shocked. I think there is a lot of respect out there.

"I'm this way: I don't care whether a band's a Christian band or a band of atheists or a Jewish band or whatever. If they're good, let's face it--they're good. It doesn't mean I agree with their stance lyrically, but if they're good musicians, I'm going to respect them. I think that's how people are starting to be with Stryper. 'Hey! These guys can play...Why should we hate them so much for?'"

**What do you think it would take for you to feel like you've been a success?

"That's a good question. In year's past, I always would have said, 'My goal is to Stryper-ize the world' (laughs). I still feel the same way, but one thing I really want is to turn on the radio and hear Stryper. I've heard it out

there before, okay? But, I'd love for this band to have a #1 single... not only because we're just itchin' to make a whole lot of money. I feel people, no matter what they do, have a goal. There may be pastors out there who have the goal to build a crystal cathedral or to preach in front of thousands of people, or whatever. I'd like for Stryper to get out there more."

**I know that a lot of Christian people are gonna and have judged you guys. I want to give you guys an opportunity to judge yourselves. Just for a reference, would you consider yourself hot, lukewarm, or cold?

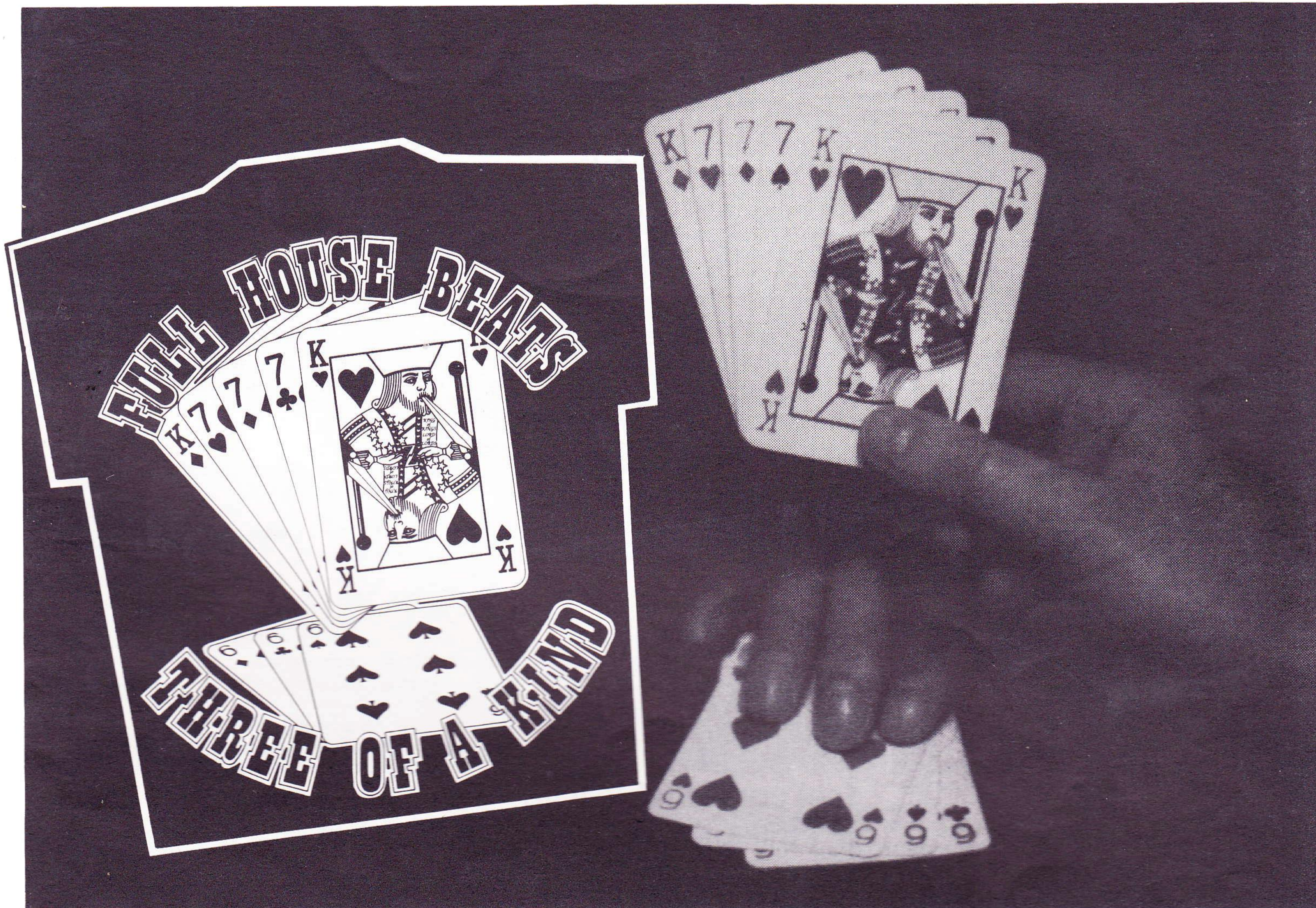
"Well, I want to be very careful of building ourselves up too much, okay? Who is anyone, first of all, to say they are 'hot'? I think sometimes that verse is really taken out of context. It's really zero-ed in on people harshly and I'll be the first one, #1, to say nobody is perfect...nobody. Anyone out there that's saying they are, you know, they're a liar. #2, no one has arrived yet and has it so together. We've seen this recently with some big preacher people. I wouldn't say that I'm lukewarm. I wouldn't say I'm cold, and I wouldn't say I'm hot. I would say that all of us, we're four guys...we're neither angels from heaven nor demons from hell. We're normal people who know Christ, but are in an industry where it's very different. It's hard for most people out there to understand the workings of the rock 'n' roll music business, and how to deal with situations. I would just say that we're four guys where, at the level of our heart, there is sincerity. We're not perfect, but we're not ones out trying to do anything that's wrong or trying to do anything to hurt anybody. We're trying to do what we can. We haven't turned our backs. We're just four normal guys."

**Like you said, all of us have blown it, and all of us have failed, all of us have sinned. How have you guys dealt with sin in your lives?

"To start this off, I remember a guy who went to a pastor one time. This was one of the most right-on things I've ever heard. The guy walks up to the pastor and says, 'Look, I just want to tell you something. I'm really angry at God. There's a lot of stuff in my life that I just don't understand. I'm going through a lot of problems and I'm really angry at God. I don't want to be, but I am.' The pastor said, 'Look, God's a big god and He can take it.' I thought that was so awesome.

"First of all, I think the first thing to do in dealing with sin is, #1, don't be too hard on yourself. I think sometimes people are made to feel so bad and so guilty for doing something that's really not that bad...it's just a normal thing that occurs in life, you know? I've seen people made to feel so guilty for nothing. They went to the movie theater to see a show, or that girl wore her makeup a certain way or whatever. They were made to feel so bad. It's one thing if you're going out and chopping people's heads off or, you know, you're a Hitler figure..."

"What was the reason for Christ's coming? It was to take a burden off our back.



LAST CHANCE

It was the last draw, but he never could get the upper hand. Sure, there were times in the past when he thought he had won, but each time his opponent calmly laid the cards on the table, revealing what he *never* could have known. "But this time, I'm sure to win!", He thought confidently. A twisted grin spread across his face as he lay down his cards. "Three of a kind.", he anounced with a cackle, "What have you got?". . .

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I think sometimes we can all become to weighed down. 'Oh my God, I'm not doing God's will and I'm not living the perfect life, and I feel so guilty,' you know. 'I'm such a loser. God, help me.' You can become too burdened down with that. I think if God's voice was ever actually heard, He would say, 'Look, I've forgiven,' you know, 'Stand up and do what you can.'

"The first thing is: Don't be too hard on yourself. The second: Just try to have some sincerity that's there. You said, 'We've all sinned'--past tense. It's not only past tense. Everybody's going to go through stuff now, and everyone's going to go through stuff in the future. I don't think any Christian is purposefully planning on going through something that's wrong or whatever. Everyone's going to have their times of doubt, anger, or questioning. How about when all of us question God? 'Oh God, why?' That's just as much of a sin as anything. That's not having any faith. Everyone goes through these things, but I think as long as the sincerity level is there it's going to pull you up back on your feet again.

"I think the most important thing is to make Christ your friend, not just where He's just this figure on a cross or whatever. It's a thing in your heart. It's definitely a relationship. I think sometimes things are just blown out of proportion, and people are looked at as nothing but sinners, instead of just people. Of course, people are sinners, but I don't think God just looks at people as sinners. He looks at them as people, but sin is a separate thing. He hates the sin, but He loves the person. I think sometimes that's forgotten. 'People are just sinners and wrongdoers.' I just don't think that's good, personally."

**Yeah. I know in the Gospel Jesus never called people "sinners". He used the term "lost". If you lose your car keys, you'll go around the house looking for them, because they're valuable to you. That's a term He used for us, because we're very valuable to Him and He's looking for us.

"Exactly. I think sometimes all of us--and I did say us, okay--need to re-evaluate 'What is Christianity?' #1, it's not a bunch of works. I kinda look at Christianity sometimes and say, 'Hey wait. I don't understand. The emphasis has been placed on the exterior: 'Get right', and you carry the cross around your neck, and you carry that Bible with the dove imprinted on the nice cover; you wear that suit or whatever; you go to church so many times, and you're seen at those prayer meetings, and you're okay. But that's not it. That's not Christianity. It isn't, you know, making sure everybody knows how much money you gave. It isn't begging people to give you money. Christianity is really caring about people, and you know, it's not an easy thing to do.

"It's not using your platform to ruin other people. I've noticed a lot of people will do that. There's a guy on channel 40 who used to be the singer for Black Sabbath..."

**Jeff Fenholt.

"Right. He's starting to get a little

popular right now, and I know his intentions are good, but he said, 'Look, we're going to have to really reach these kids; and I'm not talking about this candy-cane Bible throwing into the audience.' I just thought, you know, 'You're a jerk! How many millions of people have you reached for Christ? Who are you to insult Stryper right on tv like that?' You know who he's talking about, 'cause we're the only ones who've done it. He's not a jerk. He made a mistake, but that was my initial thing to say to him. I've never gotten on tv and insulted Jeff. I've never gotten up and crucified Jimmy Swaggart like he crucified us. I've never gotten up and said, 'Hey, don't go to this church,' like people have said, 'Don't go see that band.'

"I've started to notice that when certain people get a platform in Christianity, they start to use it to insult other people and cut them down. I think that needs to be re-examined. The Bible says the tongue is the worst thing. Whenever I see someone insulting other people on tv, I instantly know, 'Hey, that didn't come from Christ.' I don't know what type of Christianity those people are observing.

"We just wanted to make it where everyone out there feels comfortable listening to Stryper. When they feel comfortable with it, I think they'll feel comfortable at least to listen to something we say in a magazine."

What it becomes is a self-righteous thing where these people are saying, 'Look, I'm arrived now. I'm on tv on a Christian station. I know I'm doing something right. Now I have the ability to tell the world who's right-on and who's not, so I'm gonna do the right thing and put those people down.' That's not Christianity. It doesn't exist in Christianity.

"It would be cool if Christians everywhere would just take a step back and take the attitude of, 'Look, it's not my place to insult anybody. It all starts with me.' If that would happen, Christianity would begin to flourish. There would be true humility. True humility isn't not having money. It's not looking a certain way. It's not being rich or poor or anything like that.

"In one of the first shows we played in 1984, we went up to Sacramento. At that point, we didn't have any money at all. We had a truck, a little car, and a black limousine that some lady had bought. It wasn't a very nice limo. The air-conditioner didn't even work, but it was a big car and it was a way for us to get around. So, when we pulled up to this place we're going to play, the minute we get out of

the car these self-righteous Christian people who were there praying go, 'Hey, you guys, wow...we're really kind of grieved you pulled up in a limousine. You know, we thought you guys were humble.' We thought, 'You fools. That's not humility. I mean, if we would've pulled up in a beat-up Toyota, would you have said, 'Right-on for God?' Those are the ideas that float around...it's really ignorance. People are just being taught, in ignorance, a false humility. Humility is what's in the heart."

**I can definitely relate to your frustration at having to meet so many people's standards just because you're a public figure.

"You can't do it. It's not possible, because everybody thinks something different. We get letters all the time. Some of the stuff people say is just crazy. They just expect so much stuff out of you. It's stuff you've never been and you never will be. You can't do it. You just have to be yourself."

**Do you understand where a lot of 'em are coming from?

"Sometimes I can. Some of them I just think are crazy. I'm not saying that we don't care about them or that they're not good people, but some of the ideas they have are really crazy. It's not normal."

**Can you kind of relate it to, perhaps a Jimmy Swaggart or a Raul Reese or somebody you've respected. You have certain expectations of?

"No, but see, out of those people I have no expectations. I see what they're doing and my attitude is, 'Hey, they're being led on the path they have to do. I have no expectations out of them.' I don't look at them as like some god or something. They're just people."

**I feel like I've got a pretty good balance on that, but I can relate to a lot of people, as far as a spiritual leader or just a normal Christian: They are not perfect, but it's easy for our human nature to expect them to live up to a standard, like not getting in fights, not getting drunk, not swearing on tv, etc.

"Well yeah, sure. You know, all that's pretty much common sense stuff. One attitude I've had is: 'I have enough in my life to take care of.' Who am I to expect the impossible out of somebody? Especially when they're probably much busier than myself...and going through things I don't even know about. That's why some of the stuff people write in and expect out of Stryper is crazy."

**That's Biblical. Jesus said, 'Take the log out of your own eye before you try to remove the speck out of anyone else's.'

"It's true. What we should do is encourage each other and build each other up. We shouldn't be putting each other down...ESPECIALLY publicly. I mean, it's one thing to go to someone and have a conversation with them, but it's another thing



to get on tv after you've never talked to these people and just crucify them. It's wrong. Very wrong."

****If you died today, what would you say to Christ?**

"I would just say, 'Lord, let me say this to you: I don't know if everything I've done is right. I know that I've probably missed the mark on a lot of things, but just please, you know, just please forget about that and just bring me home; because I've been lookin' forward to it. I'm not perfect, but You are; so please accept me.'"

****How can the readers of this article pray for you?**

"I'd just have them pray that the right things happen for the band and the doors that should be opened are opened. It's tough for us. We need all the support, prayer-wise, we can get--that's for sure."

****What are your touring plans?**

"Well, we're still trying to get that together. What we wanted to do this tour is something of a twist: We were hoping to be able to go out and open for a few big acts...just to get in front of some audiences that may not come to see Stryper. We're definitely going to headline. I hope the tour is as long as can be. We're still putting it together. We probably won't be going out until September."

****How are you going to top the last tour's drumset?**

"Ha! That's a good one. I still don't even know yet. A lot of that depends on finances when it comes to headline. When we're opening up...I'll always have something impressive, but I'm going to have to go a taste bit smaller. I said a taste bit...It'll still be pretty impressive."

****Those reading this article who want to accept Christ...how do they do it?**

"Well, I'm sure everyone out there has heard a standard way of doing that. I would, #1, tell people to do it. It's a personal thing. By yourself, you just do some talkin'--and He hears ya right away. You just let Him know where you're comin' from and how you're feeling, and that you want Him in your life. Just ask Him to forget about the things that are wrong in your life in the past and to help you do what He would want you to do in the future."

****A friend wanted me to ask you this question...Don't be offended by it. But, if you want to be offended by it, go ahead. Do you love God?**

"That doesn't offend me. How could I not...and do all this? To me, that's not even a logical question. It's so hard, year after year to be rejected because you mention the Name of Christ. Let's face it, success isn't

about rejection. I'm not saying we haven't had a success, but we've had a lot of rejection--and it's always been because of the Name of Christ. So, how in the world could someone not love God and do that? I think it says somewhere in the Bible that the only way a man says, 'Christ is Lord' is but by the Holy Spirit."

There you have it folks. Did I leave out any questions? What do you think? Do you still have a rock in your hand? HM

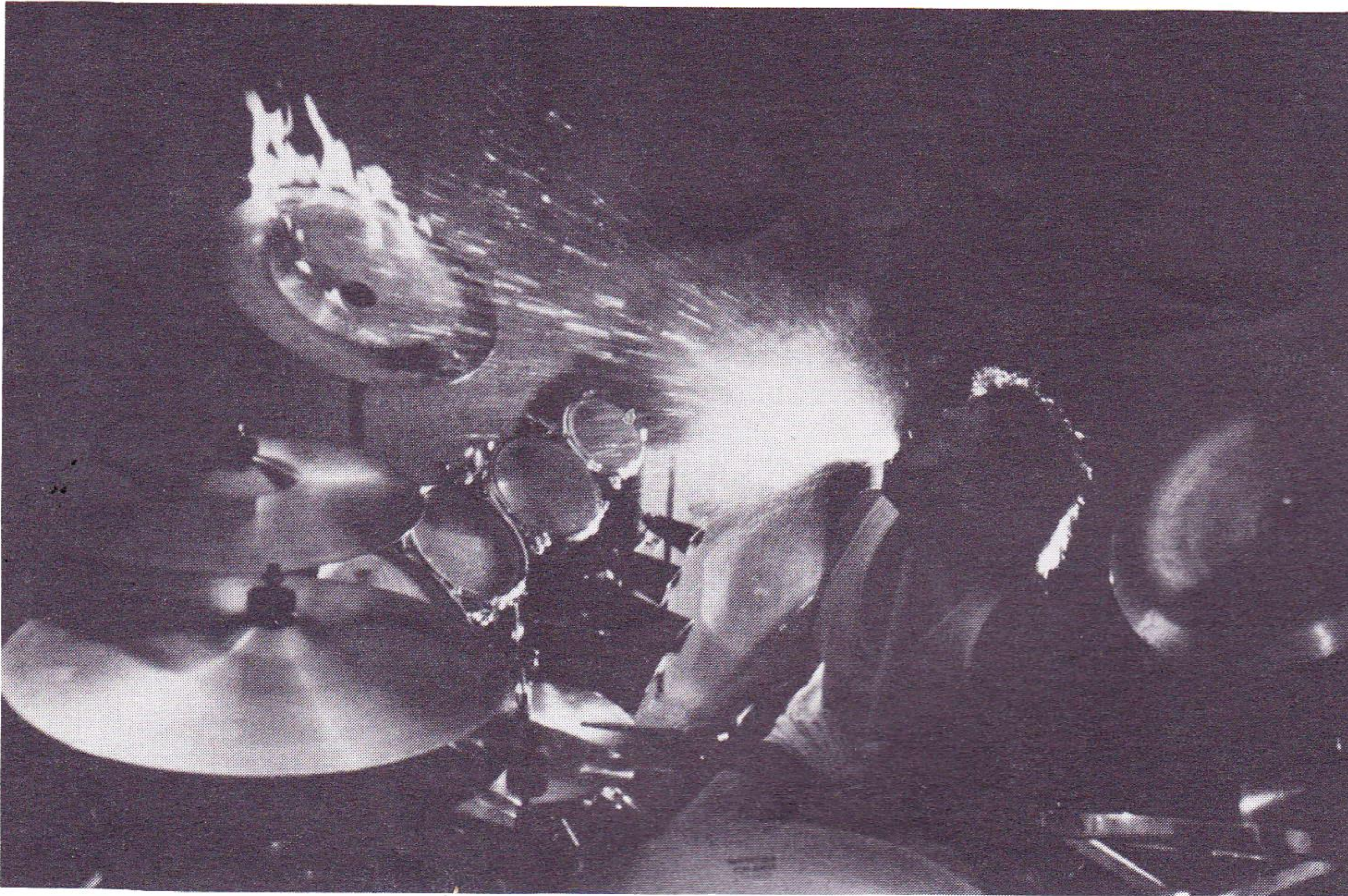


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FRESH METAL



Ted Kirkpatrick of **TOURNIQUET**

With the sudden onslaught of so many high-quality Christian bands on the scene, Heaven's Metal thought it would hold its own "New Band Showcase" to introduce you to these exciting artists. In the next few pages you'll meet Tourniquet, scaterd-few, Sacrament, and Recon. Doing the interviewing honors with Tourniquet is Roger Martinez of Vengeance. (Roger's friends, Jeff and Lori Erickson III, graciously lent their editing skills for this piece.)

Tourniquet is:

Ted Kirkpatrick: Drums

Guy Ritter: Vocals

Gary Lenaire: Guitars

(They are currently auditioning for a permanent Bass position and second guitar.)

Hello Heaven's Metal readers!

You've just got ahold of the very first exclusive interview with Tourniquet, an emerging band from Southern California, home of the likes of Deliverance, Holy Soldier, Recon, and Vengeance. These guys just completed their first LP entitled "Stop The Bleeding" and are gearing up for a United States tour. They will be sure to make some heads turn! Many times when a band first comes out, you want to know "just what are they really all about?" We wanted to give you the opportunity of hearing from the band first hand, so here goes!

Heaven's Metal: What does Tourniquet mean to you?

Ted Kirkpatrick: "We wanted to come up with a name as heavy as our tunes and message are. Psalms 147:3 refers to God binding up a broken heart, binding up the wounds of those who have been harmed--as

does a tourniquet. A tourniquet is like a last resort in keeping someone from bleeding to death. However, we do not necessarily associate that with somebody accepting the Lord--as though that only happens when they are on their last leg. It can happen (as it has many times) when things are going great too! Nevertheless, it is also true that when people seem to have no hope left, a tourniquet is Jesus Christ. He is the only One that can heal them."

HM: What does the art work on the album cover symbolize?

Gary Lenaire: "The hands symbolize the strength of the church through the power of the Holy Spirit. The snake represents the beast, Satan himself, and the dangers of being involved with satanism, witchcraft, and really, anything outside of living for God."

HM: What are you saying by the title "Stop The Bleeding?"

Gary Lenaire: "Can you believe that somebody actually had the absurd notion that we possibly meant to stop the blood of Christ? That's nonsense. On the contrary, the whole concept behind this album is that Jesus Christ shed His blood once and for all as the only acceptable sacrifice before God. And some today are actually sacrificing humans and animals in the name of Satan and some in the name of other idols, that are actually only another form of the worship of Satan. And we say, 'Stop the bleeding,' because the blood of Christ is the only thing that is going to give atonement for salvation."

HM: Is there any certain message that you would want to send specifically to the people in general by what you are doing?

Ted Kirkpatrick: "Well, that the Lord takes us in exactly where we are...regardless of our pasts, be it very good or very bad. We are all on the same level to Him. We have all fallen short of the Gary Lenaire of God. Jesus Christ is the only One Who can give us a meaningful life!"

HM: What does the song "Ark Of Suffering" refer to?

Ted Kirkpatrick: It refers to the issue of creation and our dominion of animals in God's eyes. The word dominion has been greatly misused and twisted. Dominion does not mean domination. In the Greek it means stewardship and the watching over (of something). Obviously, the most important thing for us as a band, as Christians, is leading people to know Christ and encouraging Christians in their walk with the Lord. Also, however, in the Bible there is a great deal said about our use of animals and our relationship to God's creation. We feel that it's definitely important enough to address."

HM: What are some of the abuses you see in the world today in reference to that?

Gary Lenaire: "Our lyrics are very straight-forward and blatant on this issue. One of Ted's lines in the song says, 'We cut them up to show what we already know.' Today there are a lot of huge companies that are literally doing the same brutal, cruel tests on animals that they have been doing for at least twenty years or more. They keep doing this, repeating the same tests for the sake of regulation and for the sake of money. It boils down to financial greed. They won't share the results with other companies, therefore they keep doing the tests over and over again...not that they may have ever found anything out in the first place."

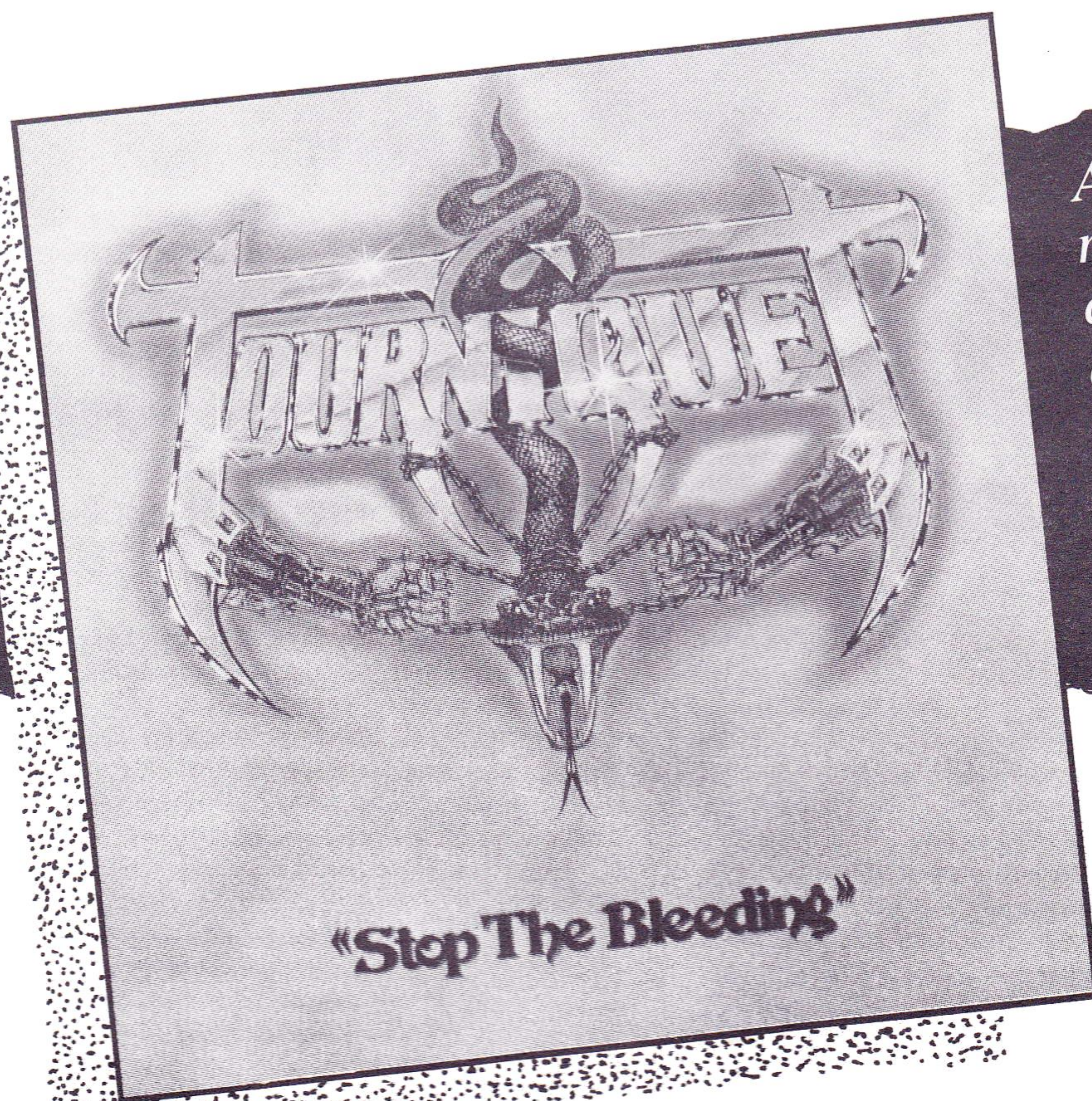
HM: So you are saying that there is a literal murder of innocent animals going on in the name of progress, when it all really boils down to greed?

Ted Kirkpatrick: "Yes, and not only that, but there is an incredible amount of repetition in psychological research. Stuff like depriving an innocent monkey of its mother and other basic needs just to see what will happen. It's been repeated hundreds of times with the same results that some guy working on his PhD got. Also, the whole thing with the factory farming, with the food that we eat...we know that in the Lord's day the raising of animals was vastly different from what's going on today."

HM: What are some of those things that are going on today?

Ted Kirkpatrick: "Well, for instance you go into the supermarket, and the eggs there we would like to think come from

TOURNIQUET



*An original
mixture of
classic metal
and thrash.
An album
that crosses
all metal
genres!*

STOP THE BLEEDING

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chickens that are running around a farmyard somewhere. What's happening is this: think of a square cage the size of a record album, squared; and picture six or seven chickens in that amount of space, and they are forced to spend their whole life in that space. Then there are pigs, which are just as sensitive as dogs--or even more so--but it's just because they look a certain way that we don't associate them with being sensitive. They are very sensitive and have the same capacity of suffering that a dog or a cat would have. There is just an incredible amount of cruelty--not only in the slaughtering, but throughout their whole lives. It's horrendous."

GUY RITTER

HM: May your tunes cause people to think and then act. That's heavy. I'm sure most of us really have had no idea of what's going on. What genre of music do you consider yourselves to be?

Gary Lenaire: "A progressive speed metal. If you listen, you will hear a lot of intricate things going on. Progressive and heavy."

Ted Kirkpatrick: "We like to incorporate a lot of different styles. I have 80 or 90 cd's, and 90% of them are classical. I love Bach, Handel, Paganini, and Chopin. When I was growing up drumming, I would always play by myself to the likes of Jean Luc Ponty, Jeff Beck, and Steve Morse, and that kind of thing. So, all of us, especially Gary and I, have an appreciation for classical music and it really influences what we do...but we like to keep it really heavy, though."

HM: What good to you see in the church today?

Gary Lenaire: "I think one good thing we see in the church today is that a lot of churches are opening their eyes and hearts to the youth. A lot of people are realizing that the young people are the foundation of tomorrow's world. We see a lot of youth ministries and activities that encourage young people to be involved with the church and enjoy it; where it's not the religious bummer that it's been so typified to be. Especially through the 60's and 70's, we've had an enormous rebellion of younger people. Toward the end of the 60's we had, ironically, a big music movement that brought a lot of musicians and hippies into the church, which in turn brought a lot of the youth back into the church. I see that happening again: the youth are beginning to be involved with what's going on."

Ted Kirkpatrick: "I think there's also been such an upsurge and breakdown of the whole family structure in the last 15 years. I mean, the amount of divorces...living here in LA, just about every person you talk to comes from some type of dysfunctional family. I think the church is really starting to recognize the importance of the family relationship. Parents are understanding their kids and looking at the music and albums that they are listening to; and not being afraid to say 'No' to them."

HM: What do you see as one of



Satan's main deceptions of today?

Ted Kirkpatrick: "One thing that must be remembered is that he is very sly and cunning. If he just came across on earth as just being like the portrayal in the film 'The Exorcist'--of someone with their head twisting around, things flying around the room...well, who would want to become what Regan was in 'The Exorcist'? The thing about Satan is he promotes so many things that are so close to what the world sees as good. The whole New Age movement, the whole 'looking within yourself' thing; that's all occultic. It is all part of Satan's plot and his intelligence. If there were nothing attractive about it, people wouldn't get into it. The Bible tells us that he is the great deceiver, and that he mixes the truth with lies. That's where the whole deception comes in. So, I think that people really need to be aware that Satan can also deal heavily in mediocrity. Just allowing us to be unmotivated and to try to put things in our way so that our thoughts are not on God. There is nothing that Satan would like more than to keep you from God and reading His Word. He'd rather have you watching 'The Cosby Show' and 'Alf' instead of reading your Bible."

"He also promotes the idea that sex before and outside of marriage is okay. Just check out the tv or walk by your local newsstand. It speaks for itself. It's very plain to see. He's very clever, very deceptive, and masquerades himself very close to the truth sometimes. To be very close to the truth however, is no truth at all."

HM: What exhortation and admonition would you have for the person who is a musician and wants to minister through music..."Play for God" as some say?

Gary Lenaire: "The best thing you can do is get into the Word. The first thing that the enemy does with new believers is try to yank them right out of the soil; and the Word planted prevents that. Get into the Word."

Ted Kirkpatrick: "Be accountable to your church and pastor. And really, really be joyful where the Lord has put you no matter what it is. If he's called you to play acoustic guitar at church for fifteen people. Well, thank him for that, and if he's called you to be the next major band, then thank him for that too. That's important."

HM: Ted, tell us your testimony.

Ted Kirkpatrick: "I grew up in a really close family. My parents both had scholarships for college in music, and my uncle is in the National Symphony in Washington, and so on. So, I've always been a lover of music. I grew up in a Presbyterian church that, unfortunately, didn't preach a personal relationship with Christ. I was fortunate in that I never got into the drug scene at all. But still, I had nothing. I was still on the same level as whoever else is on the bottom of the pit (spiritually). You know, it really doesn't matter: we've all fallen short of the Gary Lenaire of God. So, I became a Christian when I was seventeen, through a high school ministry."

HM: How important is church attendance?

Gary Lenaire: "We feel it is as important as being part of your own family at home...As you relate to your brother or mother. Because in Christ we are all related. And to ignore the brethren, is the same as ignoring your own family. Also, you should be there to help strengthen each other in the faith. That's what it's all about."

HM: Have you seen any good movies lately that you would recommend?

Gary Lenaire: "'The Mission' was a trick film."

Ted Kirkpatrick: "'The Bear'."

Gary Lenaire: "'The Bear' is a phenomenal movie if you love animals."

HM: What would you guys like to see your listeners participate in with you as a ministry?

Gary Lenaire: "If our music is something that you can dig, and you agree with what we have to say, by all means, share it with anybody. If you have credibility with anybody, use it. Use your credibility to share the Gospel with them, using any tool that you have, like an album of ours."

If you'd like to write to Tourniquet for more info about the Gospel, or the band, use this address: PO Box 4171, Burbank CA 91503. (By the way, they've got loads of real cool merchandise, including a big color poster, four styles of t-shirts, a nylon tour jacket, stickers, buttons, etc.)

HM



scaterd-few

Very rarely does a band come along with the creativity and raw street passion of scaterd-few. I sat down with lead singer Ramald Domkus for the following glimpse into one of the first hardcore bands with a Christian message.

"We wanna be a strong band...Strong in the ways of being able to hold our own against the secular market. We don't really consider The Crucified, or Nobody Special as our competition. They're brothers in Christ. We find that bands like Jane's Addiction and Bad Brains are our competition. In order to do that, you've gotta have your act together." This band definitely has its act together, as anyone who's seen its live show can attest. One of the reasons these guys are so tight and together as a band is that they've been doing what they've been doing for so long. Another reason is their preoccupation with being a strong, musical band and their drive to be real.

"We're not extremely occupied with thinking, 'We've gotta bring in such and such kids to the Lord.' You can't really judge a band like that. Let's say you bring 100 kids to the Lord a day and you sound like crap. You shouldn't be doing music then. You should be a preacher or something.

"I'd rather get deeper with the kids than just a real quick, 'You need to be born again...you need God' and then, 'See ya later.' and the kid's left with nothin'. The deeper you get with 'em, the deeper impression you leave behind; and the more apt the kid is to pursue something.

"Everybody agrees: People are into the music and the band. They flesh out on it. They dig it. They identify with it so much. Kids gotta buy your album before they buy the other band's. By going for it musically, you win

their respect and their admiration. There's more of a chance of 'em acting upon it, and that they'll do something with their life."

****How did the band start?**

"I was fascinated with the drums when I was five," explains Ramald, as he goes straight back to his deepest musical roots. "When I was seven I got a little drumset. About five years later I was a pretty hot drummer. I played in a lot of bands. I sang as well, while I was playing. I started writing, so I switched to guitar. My parents kicked me out of the house when I was about 15. They sent me to go live with a missionary uncle of mine. That's how I got saved. I went to a private missionary school for missionary kids, graduated and grew and matured in the Lord and all that stuff.

"When I graduated from high school, I'd been working in a lot of music ministry, leading worship, youth groups and all that kind of stuff. I was sent off on a team to go start some churches in South America...When I got back to the States in 1983, I went to Hollywood. The punk scene had radically changed. It wasn't too much of a moddy look anymore: (There was) a lot of hawks, a lot of bondage. A different approach to punk rock: a lot of gangs and stuff. The punk scene wasn't what it was when I was a punk--in any way, shape, or form. I was a Christian now, so I wanted to help these guys out. The scene had just exploded while I was gone."

Thus, the start of scaterd-few. The band, which consists of: Ramald Domkus, on vocals; Omar Domkus, on bass; Jamie Mitchell, on guitar; and Samuel West, on drums, went into the studio with Terry Taylor,

(who later produced its debut album as well) and recorded 11 songs in two days. The product of this rapid-fire recording session never was released, but it made its way all across the country via bootleg dubbing.

"I was 19 at the time, and we had a big entourage. We knew that there was this scaterd-few buzz goin' on across the country. We were face to face with all this hypocrisy and stuff, and the band died." A falling out of sorts happened with the band's church, and Ramald "took a spiral" in his walk.

"I've been climbin' up ever since. Four years ago, under my own recognizance, I placed myself under the submission of The Vineyard in Burbank. I submitted myself to the leadership, my family and I. God's been blessing me. God has proven Himself faithful beyond understanding."

The band's debut album, "Sin Disease", has been getting rave reviews from the critics. The biggest reason? Probably the originality and street-wise sincerity of the band, something they don't take lightly. Ramald has some very strong opinions when it comes to an artist "filling a niche" in the market.

"I think this 'Christian punk scene' is real bad. I get pretty disgusted with the kind of mentality of: Now that it's safe, jump on the bandwagon. I can't stand that. It's a lack of character, I think."

****What's the true definition of punk?**

"It's a political movement. The youth in Europe became bored. They faced unemployment, no opportunity and they reacted to it. This Christian punk scene--I think is a big joke. 'We've got an alternative market now, so how can we exploit it? How can we make a buck?' So they have these bands that are completely safe...and the kids don't know any better. Christian youth are about as narrow-minded and as ignorant as you can get. They've been trapped in this little cocoon--especially if their parents are in the church. The chances of their parents being a radical-for-Christ type person is really rare. Odds are: They're real normal and extremely conservative. So, their kids grow up in this extremely sheltered world. When they see a guy like me, they take a double look. They're so sheltered.

"I think what gets me most is this reps god. This is God's representation on this planet. I mean it's not even a legitimate attempt at copying the secular market. I don't see any integrity in it. I don't see any validity in it. I don't see any substance in it. All I see is a bunch of guys that are trying to cap on an audience that they know they can cap on. They don't know any better. They believe everything they've been told up to now, why stop now? We have a bunch of jell-headed people running around in the name of God. And that bothers me. I'm so terrified of that. I know why people hate the church, Jesus Christ, Christians as a whole, and us. If this keeps up, we can realistically start seeing executions. I don't see too much that would convince me that I should get saved. If it wasn't for God's grace in my life, I would be on their side of the line...Only because I don't see a proper representation of

it. I'm not talking spirituality. I'm just talking basic superficial physical manifestation of a godly lifestyle. If we're really in tune with god, I don't think we'd be condoning half the stuff allowed and how they go about it. Sure we can have fun, but I think you need to have a fine line of what the substance is.

"I don't think we've been too responsible. I think it's all because of money. That's why I said yesterday, 'I just wanna pay my rent. I've got diapers to buy, and food...and rent to pay. I'm not here to make 60,000 a year. I'll be lucky if I make 5,000 this year. I think the church has gone after the money aspect. Because of that, we've allowed so much to go under without really dealing with it...and we're paying for it...and we're not done paying for it."

"The western church has to be dealt with. I don't know about this rapture stuff, but if I was God I'd make us suffer. I don't understand how we can even think that God would be any kinder and nice to us than Babylon...because we know the truth, this country was based on truth."

Pretty intense statements from a very intense band... Listen to "Sin Disease" and gaze into the blood-pumping aorta of these "hearts-on-their-sleeves" artists. Whatever you think, you won't be the same afterwards. Trust me. HM



RECON

"Recon, an elite force, highly trained for war; armed and dangerous, the enemy is no match for a warrior of God. Come and join the soldiers of the light. Be prepared to tread dangerous ground, and to fight behind enemy lines."

The self-penned description from the title track of the band's debut album spiritually explains what these artists have done with their music. "I'm not ashamed to say," says guitarist/founder George Ochoa (who also, you know, plays lead guitar for Deliverance) "I was watching 'Heartbreak Ridge' with Clint Eastwood....there was a recon unit there. It sounded really cool, and I dug the spiritual parallel. They were sent in behind enemy lines. Outside of Navy Seals, the recon unit is probably the highest-trained outfit. Spiritually, the recon went behind the enemy lines, like the clubs and all these places, into the devil's territory to preach the Gospel to set the captives free. It takes a warrior to do that; not a wimp with a gun and no bullets in it. He's gotta be fully prepared."

The beginnings of the band Recon go back to the band DeRoque. "I left my last band," says George, "because they were really wimping out. I knew John and Vett were available as musicians. They were totally into it. I knew Eddie from Sanctuary Whittier. The initial thing was I told these guys, 'We're gonna stay heavy, and be more progressive.'" They've kept their motto on their debut album, which rides a progressive wave over the heavy, crunchin' rhythms in each song.

Since the recording, there's been some personnel changes. "Eddie, the rhythm guitarist, became too busy," says Mike. "He's been replaced by Eric Mendez, who used to

play with Royal Priesthood."

"Eddie just got married," says George. "In the Old Testament, a fighter in the Israeli army, for the first year of his marriage, he wasn't allowed to go out in the battlefield. I look at it as Eddie's chilling out being married."

"He's having a baby in August," adds Mike. "He didn't have time to practice."

The former lead vocalist, Vett Roberts, was asked to leave "because we got real uncomfortable about his walk," explains Mike. "God was not going to bless the band. Like they say, 'you can bring a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.' He said he wanted to live the life, but we just couldn't get him to do it. We spent a lot of time reading the Bible to him and praying with him. I said, 'Call me collect, Vett, anytime.'"

"One cool aspect of Vett," says George, "is he's a good guy to talk to. He's got a massive zeal to spread God's Word, but just day-to-day, living out your Christian convictions and what the Lord has commanded us to be like--that's been a problem. We're not self-righteous or think we're any better than anybody, but it takes somebody that's serious. We want to be blameless as a band."

"It's gonna bring the level down if someone's not right with the Lord," adds Mike. "We talked to Vett a lot about his lifestyle. We constantly talked to him about getting together with us and doing things with us, and to kinda quit hanging around non-Christians."

So, the band begins a search for a lead vocalist. Meanwhile, guitarist George Ochoa is going to fill double duty with Deliverance and this band--as long as Deliverance's schedule doesn't go gangbusters.

Originally, Recon was to be no more once the album was finished. "But," explains George, "doing the album kinda united it back and sparked off the vision again. It's a cool album, and there's really no reason why it shouldn't continue."

If George's schedule wasn't busy enough, he's also a husband, associate pastor of Sanctuary Hollywood, and a construction materials salesman. But, the big question is: Did he purposefully rip off the Queensryche sound? (Laughter) "Here's my answer to that question: Influences obviously come through. Once a musician has an influence... And I don't care who you are, a musician has an influence. You heard somebody play and you said, 'I like that. I wanna play like that one day.' To me, we haven't ripped off Queensryche, but what I like about Queensryche that I would even come close to applying to Recon is a thinking man's metal. It's not bone-head metal progressions. It would be something that would have more thought put into it. Something that's got a lot of texture and feeling and mystique to it. There's this new movement going on, where everybody's wanting to play this Blues, party-type metal, and it's the easiest stuff in the world to write. It's workin' I guess right now, but for me it would never come close to satisfying me musically. It might make you some money, but it sure wouldn't satisfy my musical drive."

"If you have any friends that are into this style of music, turn 'em on to it. I believe it is right up to par with what's going on out there, I really do. Use Christian bands as a tool to glorify the Lord with and to spread His Gospel. By all means, it shouldn't just be something you put in your tape deck and have

a good time to. There's nothing wrong with that. I believe a Christian needs to be entertained. He needs to have an alternative to music that's not good for him. At the same time, I get letters all the time from people who tell me that they use the tape for ministry. Kids like the music, they get to readin' the lyrics, and they call the Sanctuary 1-800-548-5222 number. People call, and they say, 'What are these lyrics all about?'

"The counselor on the other line tells them, 'They're about Jesus. He can save you and give you a better way, and on top of that can give you eternal life. You can know where you go when you die.'

"And they go, 'Really? What do I have to do to get saved?' Things like that happen all the time. When I hear that happening, I think, 'That's really what it's all about.' That's one thing we hope that would never cease with Recon. If we start writing about 'The flame,' or 'The Light'...and, you know, getting afraid to use the 'J-word', you're not gonna get those calls. You're not gonna get kids saying, 'I wanna know about Jesus.' It's just not gonna happen, because Jesus was direct. Not just Jesus, but the Apostles, all the church fathers, the reformers, and all the preachers we have today... I mean we have no time to waste, especially in these last days.

"I've heard a band have lyrics like, 'Find your way to love.' They're so afraid to use the 'J-word', you know, Jesus, that they say, 'You guys have gotta find your way to love, and if you need any help, we'll help you after.' To a guy that's got a few beers in him and sees this blonde on the other side of the club, that's his way to love. If I heard that from the stage and I was a heathen, I'd say, 'That's cool. That's love over there,' and I'd go find that blonde chick, whatever.

"So anyway, use Recon as a witnessing tool." There you have it, folks...and from a band that's not afraid to use the "J-word". HM



THE NEW T-SHIRT DESIGN!



SACRAMENT

Out of the City of Brotherly Love comes a smokin' hot speed metal band that just keeps getting better and better with each listen. The story of this band is speed. They got signed quickly, they play quickly...even drummer Paul Graham had his life changed quickly. He slowed down from his schedule, though, enough to have this brief conversation with Heaven's Metal. Listen in.

****Who is Sacramento, and how did you come to be?**

"We're a five-member band. It has Mike Terrone on vocals; It has Mike Dianado on lead guitar; It has Brian Toy as the rhythm guitarist; It has Eric Nye on bass; and I'm Paul Graham, the drummer. Me and Eric got together about three years ago. We wanted to form a Christian metal band. Now, there's so many Christian musicians out there, it's not even funny. Back then, there was, like, nobody. We struggled with it; going through members. A lot of the members were good musicians, but didn't want to commit to Christ. Others were committed to Christ, but really couldn't play the music. Finally, we got the singer, Mike Terrone. He was committed to the Lord and had that sound that we wanted. The other players fell into place by March of 1989. Since then, the Lord's been mightily blessing us.

"We've only played about five times out, but around the third show we knew we were getting a record contract from R.E.X.. A

lot of people say, 'Man, you guys came out of nowhere!' It is, I guess. It happened so fast. We had a demo to put out, but that never made it, because the album came before the demo got out. We just count it as a blessing. We kept praying that it was in the Lord's will. 'Whatever He wanted us to do...' Obviously, He wanted us to put an album out.

"It just shows how much God's hand is in our group, because look how fast He got us out here. It's not natural for a band to make it this fast. It's all for His glory. It's all Him."

****What do you hope to accomplish with your lyrics?**

"The majority of the lyrics try to show that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that no one can come to the Father except through Him. We're trying to show the kids out there that are hurtin' and are hooked on drugs and all the problems that are goin' on that there is a plan for your life and that you can have life abundantly if you would just accept Jesus Christ into your heart. The main thrust is to spread the Gospel. We want the focus to be on Jesus as much as possible."

****Have you been playing speed metal for a while?**

"Before we were just like a heavy metal band. In 1989, when we got Brian Noy, we went from being a real heavy band to heavy



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speed. We weren't even as close to as fast as we are now. We have tapes of the stuff that's on the album; and we listen to it and go, 'Wow, listen to how slow that is.' We're at least a quarter speed faster now than we were on the album. We were supposed to have 35 minutes of material on the album; and we ended up playing so fast in the studio that we knocked four minutes off our time. Originally, it wasn't so fast; but when we got in there, we got so hyper and adrenalized that we played it even faster. Now, we look back at that, and the speed on the album is even slow! You know, 'When's it gonna stop?'

"You reach a point when you can't play it anymore. We did reach a point about a month ago. It was just like, 'Hey guys, I can't play this fast, because I'm the drummer and I have to play the double bass part. I can't even get my legs to move as fast as you guys wanna play. Listen, we've gotta be speed-conscious, and we've gotta slow it down. I think it's like endurance or something. We keep building up and we play faster. The next album is even gonna be faster.'"

Paul went to church with his parents for several years, but never allowed himself to digest the message. One night he was arguing with a couple of Christians, and decided with a Mike Terrone to go home and study the Bible to prove these guys were wrong. "That's when God decided to step in. I didn't end up reading the Bible that night. I read this book by Hal Lindsey, called 1980's The Countdown To Armageddon. I started reading it at 2:00 am

and ended up reading the whole book.

"The stuff in there was like prophecies in the Bible and modern day fulfillments and stuff. I guess that's what the Lord used to wake me up, because it did. At about six in the morning in the end of the book it said, 'If you would like to know Jesus Christ and have forgiveness of sins; because if you don't know Jesus Christ, there's condemnation for ya.' I said, 'That's it! That's what I want. I'm not gonna die and go to hell...forget that!' That's when I got down on my knees and prayed to the Lord to 'come into my life.'"

"That was in 1986. It was an instant change. The next day, those guys that were talking to me about the Bible the night before...they were astounded, because I really got on fire. I would say, 'Guys, I'm changed,' and I started spouting off scripture to 'em. They were just like, 'Whoa! What's going on with this dude?' That's how quick it happened."

****How did you come up with the name?**

"We wanted a one-word name that was short and to-the-point. We were just throwing names around, and Brian threw 'Sacrament' out there. We looked it up in the dictionary, and it said, 'To make holy or pure.'"

****Do you have any live plans?**

"Right now, we're giving all the live plans up to the Lord. Whatever He wants. There's a lot of places that want us to play. Right now we can't drive 12 hours to a show. We all work full-time jobs. We're hoping to find a manager, and maybe hook up with an established band and open up for them. I'm trusting in the Lord that we will be out there. It's all in His time plan. Hopefully soon, cause we're dying to play out."

In his parting comments, Paul wanted to say: "Praise the Lord for all His wonderful blessings that He's given Sacramento. I pray for everyone out there who is unsaved, that Jesus Christ will change lives. If you trust Him with your life, He will turn things around."

"Pray for the Christian bands, because we really need it. It's a struggle. We're dealing with secular areas...trying to get into clubs. Pray that we remain humble. With the speed that we got out there, it's very easy for us to get big-headed, like it's our glory or something. It's very easy to get caught up in that. Pray that we stay strong in the Lord."

Prepare to hear more from this band in the future. They are currently understanding the importance of being in accountable relationships with spiritual leaders, which you'll read more about in a future issue here.

If you'd like to contact the band, write: Sacramento, 738 Primos Ave, Primos PA 19018. HM

THE FUTURE ACCORDING TO KERRY LIVGREN

By Doug Van Pelt

This is an interview I've been wanting to do for a long time. When I met Kerry Livgren at GMA '90, I met a very kind brother who was more than happy to sit down and answer some of the questions I'd had since my childhood, unweaving some of the web of mystery surrounding this artist.

****Why don't you share what you're doing now and your plans for the future, music-wise and life-wise?**

"I'm currently involved in a number of different efforts. First among them, I would say, is songwriting. Before I can get involved in anything else, that's a requirement. So, I'm frequently in my studio--which I'm also in business with, so it takes a certain amount of my time every day to do that--and I've compiled a group of songs that I feel good about. We've also discussed Kansas getting back together to do some sort of project. At the moment, we're talking about putting two new tracks on a second 'Best Of Kansas' album.

"It used to be that a 'Best Of' album was a compilation of recorded material. Now, record companies want new tracks on 'Best Of' albums, so they'll have something to put on the radio. So, we're coming up with two Kansas songs. After that, I suppose I'll take the rest of the songs I've come up with and release another record. I don't have any real specific plans as to what arena that album will appear in. Whatever doors open, I'll gladly step through at the time. My plans aren't real specific, but there is another album in the works."

****Good. Are you still affiliated with Kerygma?**

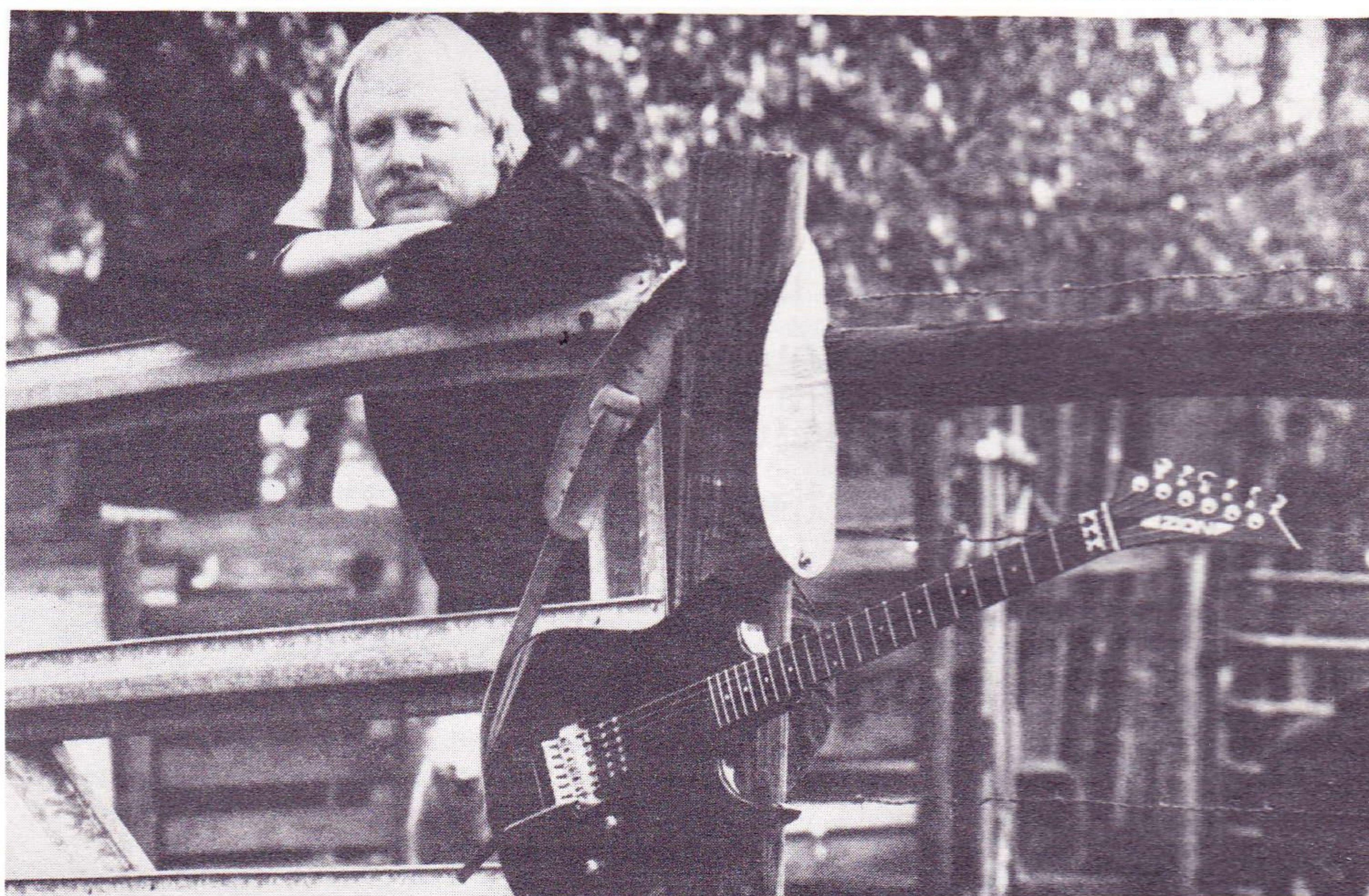
"No, Kerygma actually no longer exists. I'm directly affiliated with Sparrow in Contemporary Christian music, so I would likely be working with them."

****Do you have a contract with them, or is it just a working relationship?**

"It's a working relationship. It's a really neat one. I like it. I don't know if they like it as much as I do (laughter), but I like it. Basically, it consists of, when I complete an album, then I call 'em up and say, 'Hey, I've got an album.'"

"They say, 'Oh, great,' and we do it on sort of an album-by-album basis. It's kind of a neat way to do it. Most labels like to have a long-term commitment from you. I think in this case, it probably means that, but it's not chiseled in stone somewhere on a tablet. I like that after 10 years of being tied up in contracts."

****Yeah, it sounds better. On your "Prime Mover" album you did a remake of "Portrait", which is kind of neat. The first "Portrait", according to your book, was about**



Einstein, and the next one was about Christ. What was the motivation to do another one?

"Well, it's interesting. The first one, which you're right, I had written about Albert Einstein. You wouldn't believe the various different people that people thought that song was about. I mean, just everybody you've ever heard of. Although I would say about 80% of 'em thought it was about Christ. I always thought that was interesting, because I wasn't sure what they saw in that song that made them think it was about Christ. So many people had asked me that over the years, that eventually the idea occurred to me, 'You know, I think I will re-write that song and make it true this time, make it about Christ. And actually, I didn't have to change all that much.'"

"It wasn't that I worshipped Einstein, it's just that the song's about a person who was totally unique, and he knew things that nobody else knew. So, it was fairly easy to change a few lines. Once I got into changing the song, I actually ended up changing the music quite a bit. I added segments to it that didn't exist before."

****There's a strip in Austin, Texas called "The Drag", and I was talking to this guy out there. He was into the Urantia Book. I told him about how Kerry Livgren had been in Urantia, and he found the Truth, Jesus Christ. He said, "Hey, that name sounds familiar. It's some guy who found the truth and somehow went back to Christianity." It's funny how he said it. Do you have much interaction with people that you knew in Urantia anymore?**

"Very, very rarely. It's not because I avoid them or anything like that, it's simply because there are very, very few of those people. When I was into that particular religion, I never met one other person who was into it. I

didn't seek them out, but it's really not a well know cult. At that point in my life, I'd been through so many religions, I was really scraping the bottom of the barrel trying to find a new one. You know, I was looking for God in all the wrong places--that'd make a good song, wouldn't it?

"I'd looked almost everywhere, and that was one of the last places. It's interesting that the central figure in Urantia is Jesus Christ--not the One of the Bible. It's a different Christ and a different Gospel, but I had come almost full circle at that point, and got interested in Christ again. It would have been tragic to have stopped my search at that point, but when I finally heard the real Gospel, it really happened for me and that was THE truth. I knew it was what I'd been looking for the whole time."

****What are some of the things that the Holy Spirit has taken you through in your walk as a Christian, you and (your wife) Vicki, since you've come to Christ?**

"What I call the 'Onion Syndrome'. Have you ever sat down and just peeled an onion off, layer by layer? Well, the Lord, since the moment of my conversion, has begun peeling back layers of me for me to look at, and they get uglier and uglier as He keeps going. The interesting result of that is I've become more mature in the faith. I think we may have all been under tremendous delusion of who we are, ourselves, and part of what the Lord does, is reveal that to you. I don't sit around and dwell on what a terrible sinner I am, but I'm certainly aware of it. Grace becomes all the more miraculous the more I see that. I've also been, over the years, learning His Word, which never ceases to be a challenge and never ceases to be amazing. It's like an ocean that you can't plumb the depths of it. You keep going deeper

and deeper, and the bottom is nowhere in sight. So, I'm enjoying that.

"We've started a church, myself and our pastor, and one other individual pioneered a church in the town we live in. I'm very involved in that. I'm teaching the adult class. While I'm teaching, I'm also taking sort of a seminary-by-mail (laughter). It's not by mail."

**You're taking it, or you're giving it?

"The Gospel is the Gospel. However it gets out, it's where the power is, not the vehicle that we dress it up in."

"Well, both. I'm taking this course, and then I take what I learn and I'm teaching about it, which is I think what you're supposed to do. If you just sit back and learn...what good is it, if you don't do any of it? So, I teach the adult class in the church. That's perhaps the most challenging thing I've ever done, is teaching, because in order to teach, you have to learn. It's not a real high-pressure thing, but you enter a new level of accountability, which is kind of scary...but good, because it has a new level of blessing. The same principle: to whom much is given, much is expected. If you're faithful in the little things, then you'll be faithful with much. It keeps me busy."

**What kind of folks are attending? What age?

"Predominantly very young. We live in kind of a rural area. I don't want to say we're all a bunch of farmers (laughter). They're good people. They're young families that want to commit their lives to Christ."

**That's exciting. You know, a lot of Christians pray, "That if we could just get so and so, Robert Plant, saved; what a great witness he would be?" A lot of times, when a celebrity gets saved, we want to put 'em on the 700 Club and let them evangelize for us. That's just one of my opinions coming out in the question, but do you have any opinions on this?

"Yeah, I think I do have an opinion, because literally within days of myself getting saved, people were already shoving me out in front of people, and having me give my testimony. It was almost like the church had the attitude, 'Oh, look who we've got;' as if somehow I lent credibility to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is ridiculous. I mean, a bum on the street corner is as precious in the sight of God as some rock star, or some political figure, or anyone else. But, of course, we want people that are seen by other people to be saved, because the idea, I guess, is that he'll be able to present the Gospel to more people, and maybe that's true. But, I don't

think we give 'em time to grow. A baby Christian is a baby Christian. I don't care who it is. Then need to be loved, and nurtured, and taught, and grounded in the faith, and matured before we put them up on a pedestal.

"It was a difficult thing for me to deal with. I think God may have ministered some special grace to me to deal with that situation. In Dave Hope's case, I know that was true. He had sort of an instant maturity that I've never seen, and he had to have it, because you know, within a month of him getting saved, there he was on the 700 Club. We were delighted to be able to tell people what we believed, but on the other hand, it would've been nice to have really gotten well-grounded before we had to do that."

**Are you fellowshiping with Dave? Does he live close by?

"He doesn't live close by. Yes, we have a wonderful relationship and fellowship that I wouldn't trade for anything in the world, but he's a youth minister now, and he's in Destin, Florida. I'm up here in Atlanta, so you know, we're quite a ways apart. We miss each other, but I do get to see him from time to time."

**As far as your goals with Kansas, what kind of lyrical approach, or direction, or goals do you have for working with that?

"I don't re-define my goals depending on what group I'm in. There's sort of an interesting phenomenon... I've been writing Christian music now for ten years. As a lyricist, I find I'm getting to a point where I've kind of said everything I wanted to say. All the real urgent things...I spewed all those out almost immediately. Now, I'm having to sit back and take a look at, 'Well, what is a really creative way to say something new, that me or somebody else hasn't said already?' When you sit back and look at the hymnal, lyrically, there's some things in there that have been pretty tough to improve on. So, I'm finding it more challenging to write words."

"If I know I'm going to be writing for Kansas, then I do take that into consideration...that, first of all, I'm not with a group of believers. The thing that split up the group to begin with was that. Then, on the other side, I'm not going to compromise for that. So, there are, I believe, creative ways to honor God, and to let what the words that you say be a light in someone's life, without it being a totally evangelical approach. On the other hand, I want to tread very carefully, examine my motives, and really see if it's God telling me to do that."

"I hear so many musicians saying, 'We wanna take the Gospel to the world,' and then you look at what they say, and what they do...and it's an awfully fine line. Are they really getting across with any kind of message? I've grown past the point...where I'm not going to judge any musician, or judge any other musician's motive in music or anything else. I'll tell you what I like and what I don't like, but as far as what God's telling them to do and say, I'm not going to judge it. I'm too worried

about what He's telling me to say. If I could take care of myself first, then maybe I'll worry about somebody else. It's tough--I'll tell ya--being a musician and being a Christian....Particularly being a lyricist."

"I think it's one of the things that drove me to do an instrumental album (laughter). 'I can't handle this anymore.' Music, you know, is easier, because you can just say, 'I did this music to glorify God,' and leave it at that. On the other hand, God gave me a gift of being able to write words, and I think He expects me to use it. I try to do my best to let Him reveal in me how."

**Are you going to enter a situation where there'll be a couple of songwriters again, like Steve Walsh doing some?

"Yeah, hopefully. We'll give that a shot and see, you know. You put two different things, in two different flavors, in a mixing bowl and blend 'em up: Sometimes it tastes good, and sometimes it doesn't. Sometimes they're better left alone. They may be incompatible flavors. It's no reflection on the person. It's just the style of what we do. It's been a lot of years since we worked together, and we've gone different directions. So, I don't even know if we have anything in common, musically, at this point."

**Are the talks you've had or plans involve all the old people?

"We've talked about all the original members in the group. We kind of feel there's really no point in doing it, unless we've got all the original guys back together. I'm not comparing the groups, but if two of the Beatles got back together and called it The Beatles, it wouldn't be. But, you know, that's not a good example, because that's impossible now. But, for some group that isn't together, and all the original members get back together, then you're talking about something people might be more inclined to be interested in. I know I would."

"The Scripture says, 'Sing unto the Lord a new song,'...The only thing I can interpret is that it means that we're supposed to be creative."

**I was amazed when I listened to "Prime Mover" to know that Warren (Ham) sang on all the vocals, because I thought that it had to be Michael Gleason singing on "Children Of Shadows".

"Well, those two singers, Mike and Warren, have totally different types of voices. I mean really, they couldn't be more different."



But, the more they worked together, the more they began to drift toward one another's style. So, maybe by that time, they got to a point where it's hard to tell. If they had both been involved on those albums, there's certain songs that Warren would've ended up singing; and there's certain songs that Mike would've sang. I did one album with just Mike, 'Reconstructions'; then the next one I did with just Warren. I think both of those guys had to sing the songs the way the other guy would've done it, knowing that guy would've done it had he been around at the time."

****I know you probably came into the Christian industry with higher expectations than what came out... Would you like to comment on any of that?**

"I don't know if I had higher expectations or not. I think what my expectations were, was that music was, somehow, a great form of evangelism. It can be useful toward that end, but I think the awakening I had is that: music is music; evangelism is evangelism. If you try to make one into the other, you can't totally successfully do that. They can compliment one another, but I think I had visions of, I don't know what it was, being a musical Billy Graham, and seeing people come to the Lord in droves.

"Just look at history. That's not how it's ever happened. You know, God didn't leave us a record. He left us a written Word. I've found in my own life that the book that I wrote (Seeds Of Change) generated as much real visible fruit as anything I've done musically. So, what it is, is the Gospel's the Gospel...and, however it gets out, it's where the power is, not the vehicle that we dress it up in, and it doesn't matter if it's music or something else.

"I think if we try to make music into something that the Word was not intended to be... As best as I can find, God's design for music is praise, not for evangelism. And praise can result in evangelism. Maybe I'll orient

what I do more towards that end."

****Do you have any kids now?**

"Two. An eight-month old son, and an eight-year old daughter (laughter). We've cover the whole spectrum there."

****It was reported earlier in the year that you experienced some difficulty with your hearing. How is it today?**

"I'm happy to announce that, if I were not a christian I might be deaf right now. I experienced a severe hearing loss. The various doctors I saw couldn't give me a definitive cause for it, but they said that the fact that I've been playing rock and roll for 15 years was very suspicious...In spite of the fact that I took efforts to protect my hearing. It's beginning to be a hobby horse that I'm going to ride, because for a couple of months my hearing was severely impaired, and then I woke up one morning and it was perfect. So I give the glory to God for that, because I think it was people's prayers that made that difference."

****What are you farming?**

"Cattle and sheep. We have some chickens, but that's chicken to eat."

****Do you do all the production in your studio, or do you have someone else working with you there?**

"Most of it, I do. When I reach my level of competency in some area, then I'll bring somebody else in. For one thing, obviously, I don't sing. So, if I want words, I bring other people in. Technically, when the maintenance in the studio gets over my head, I'll bring somebody else in. I guess the way my personality is, if there's something that I can do, then I'll do it. I've been learning engineering for several years now, and I think right now, after the last album I did, I can safely say, I

think I can do it pretty well. The first few albums in AD and stuff, that we did, and the solo projects, I probably shouldn't have. So, you get wiser, looking back on things. Now that I've sacrificed those albums, I know how to do it right."

****This magazine, Heaven's Metal, covers Christian heavy metal. What do you think about metal? Do you listen to metal, or some forms of it?**

"I listen to all forms of music. To me, current metal is a derivative of some of the hard rock that was prevalent when I was, you know, in the later '70's....Zeppelin, etc. That genre--I really identify with. If I had stayed active in the real hard rock area, I probably would be defined...I don't know how you define my music now. I don't really know what category I fit into. There are aspects of what I do, that are very metal-esque. Obviously, a guitar is the required instrument in metal music; and I'm a guitarist, so that element exists in my own music...But I can't personally see myself identifying with just that area of what I do. There's other things I like as well. Whenever I see a style of music that I think would be confining, stylistically, then I can't picture myself doing it. It doesn't mean that I don't appreciate what someone else is doing. I don't know...I can't picture myself a Country artist, a middle of the road, or anything else either. I guess I'm sort of a chameleon, which is not necessarily good, but I am what I am."

(At this point in the interview I tried to sell Kerry on Jeff Johnson's music, recommending that he check it out.)

"I generally take scripture literally. When the scripture says, 'Sing unto the Lord a new song'--over and over and over it says that...and I really find myself wondering, 'What does that mean?' The only thing I can interpret is that it means that we're supposed to be creative, and that's why I make an endeavor not to get in a rut. I try to make sure every album that I do, literally, every song is at least making some sort of attempt at doing something new. I know the scripture says there's nothing new under the sun, so it's very hard to do (laughter)."

Kerry has been honored for his creative ability, with Grammy nominations in the group Kansas. Upon being nominated and winning a Dove Award this April, he expressed a deeper gratitude. "Being honored by God's people," he said as his throat choked up with tears, "for a different reason than being honored for the number of units you've sold... I like that. It has a different meaning for me than a Grammy would."

On a lighter note, he also said, "I never dreamed I would win one of several possible awards. I thought maybe it was a little too far out in left field to win this award in this category. I'm honored that it was. I'd like to specially thank Sparrow records, for believing in this project without ever having heard a note. They simply believed in me, and that's nice to know that people do that."

With Mr. Livgren's track record, I think if I was a record company owner, I'd probably okay any of the projects he touched without hearing a note also. **HM**

AWAY FROM HOME WITH LARRY NORMAN

By Andy Carr

Andy Carr managed to interview the notorious Larry Norman while at Greenbelt 1989. Known as the "Granddaddy of Christian Rock", Larry's music has had a profound impact on radical Christian music. His old music still has all the magic it had in those early years of the "Jesus Movement" in America. It's exciting to see Larry still taking an active role in the Christian music scene.

****It's great to see you here, Larry. What do you think of Greenbelt this year?**

"Well, I haven't seen everything yet. I had a record signing session, which took about six hours instead of the hour and a half it was supposed to; but I've seen all my old friends like Bryn Haworth and Norman Barrett. And we seem to be having nice weather."

****In the past, you've shied away from giving interviews. Why have you started giving them now?**

"Most people just wanted to hear about the music and not Jesus. I would talk about Him, and they used to go away and cut all that stuff out. I do interviews now 'cause I've found a way to answer all the questions with a little bit of Jesus in. It's harder for reporters to edit it out."

****Does bad press upset you?**

"Not really. It brings me closer to God. Persecution breeds stronger faith, you know? I don't think we're given the bill for Christianity so much in the West. In other places, people are persecuted for their faith and we generally aren't."

****You aren't perhaps as big a star as you could be. Why do you think that is?**

"I aren't really a musician, y'know? My humanity got in the way. I want to experience Christianity rather than have a career or be a musician or anything. I've put everything into God's hands. There are times I don't tour because I don't think God would have me tour. I guess you could say that I'm careless with my career because I'm careful with my Christianity."

****Were you brought up in a Christian household?**

"Kind of. My parents were churchgoers until I was about five. Then we went to a meeting and they got converted. I wanted to be a Christian then too, but they tried to discourage me. My Dad said that when I was older, I'd understand. This preacher was saying that there was someone else who wanted to make a commitment, and I was saying that it was me. Anyway, I went forward. I used to witness in school to the kids. I even used to bring home hobos from the street. Other kids used to bring home stray dogs and cats and I did that as well, but I brought winos too!"



Photo (c) 90 Roger Riveland

****Why did you start writing songs?**

"I started writing to kinda offset the sex and drugs that are in rock 'n' roll. I was telling kids that you don't need that kind of stuff."

****Do you need any special environment to write?**

"No, I can write in any environment, but mostly on planes now. I just hear the melodies in my head and write the words down. I can't read music, so I remember the chords."

****Have you any personal favorite in all the songs you've written?**

"Not really. The songs I've written fall into different categories and I've favorites in each category. Certain songs affect different people and those are my favorite. I guess I like **Why Should The Devil Have All The Good Music?** I kept getting into arguments about whether Christians should have long hair and so forth, and I wrote it to answer them. If you're asking about other songs, then I still think **Slow Train Coming** is a great album."

****Do you still write political songs?**

"Are you asking about **Six O'Clock News?**"

****Yes.**

"That's not really a political song. It's about a reporter trying to file a story. It's about human traits. I think that it's cheap to write political songs. It's cheap to write a song about

apartheid in South Africa, because there's racism in the States and Britain. When I was in Holland, they said that I'd be banned from there if I performed in South Africa. But who are they to criticize when there's such a big problem with sex and drugs over there? They've got open prostitution and places where there's pictures of the leaves of drug plants on the walls so you know what you can buy there. If I was to write political stuff, it wouldn't make a political point. It would be about human nature."

****The last album was called **Home At Last**. Can you explain the title?**

"Well, it's not about the house on the cover, which is where I live, or the graveyard in the background; but about Heaven. I'm trying to tell people that the final home isn't the grave. The album is how I feel about my life. It's got songs and influences that go back to 1956, when I started writing. It's kind of a retrospective collection of songs about life as I've seen it over the past 34 years."

****Have you any plans for a new album?**

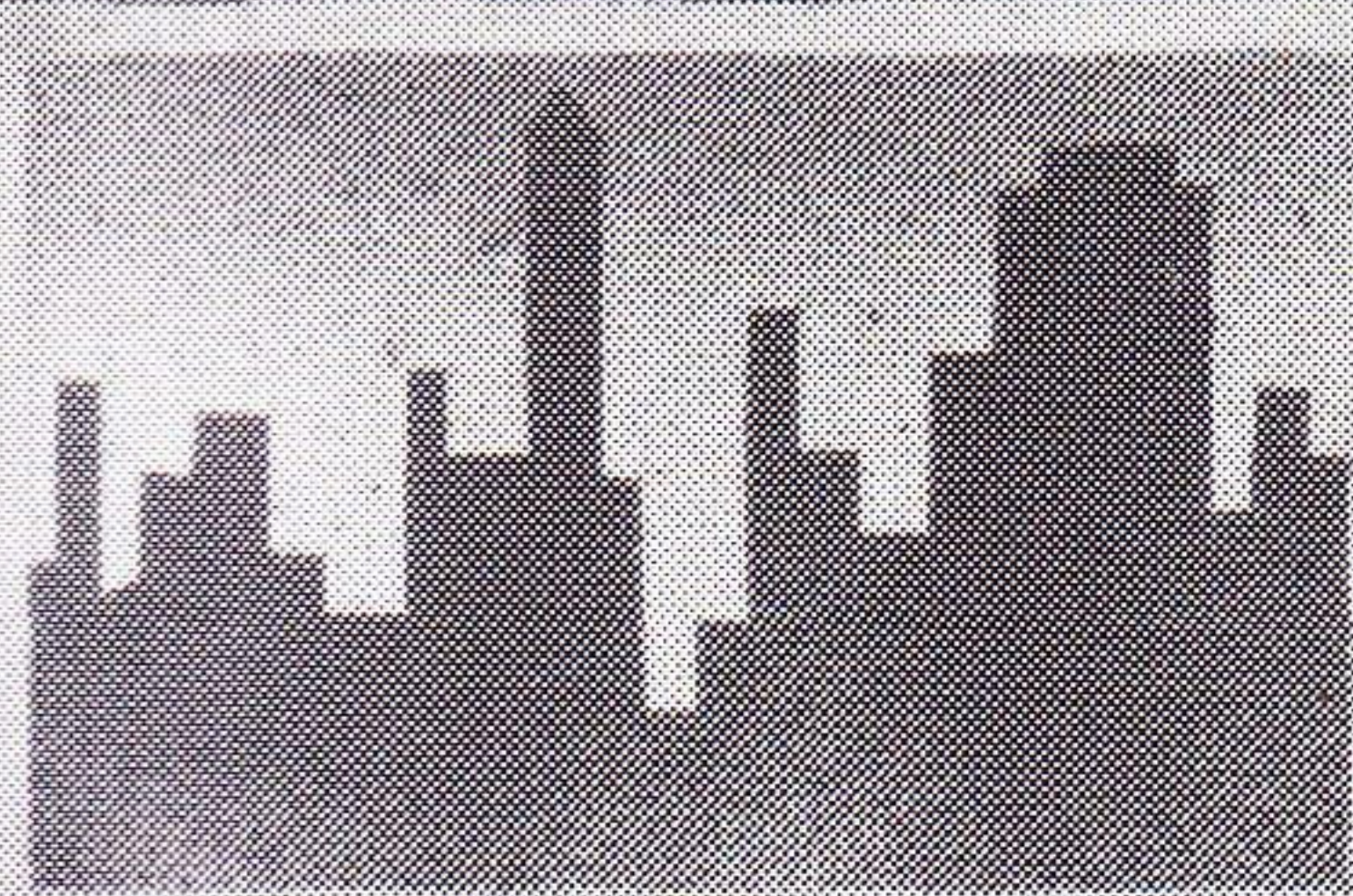
"Yeah, we're due to start recording again when I get back to the States."

****Will you be doing any appearances over here (in the U.K.)?**

"I really came to Greenbelt to see all my friends like Norman Barrett and Bryn Haworth. It's kinda hard for me to see them as often as I'd like. Either they're recording or touring, or I'm recording or touring. At Greenbelt, I can see all my friends in three days." HM

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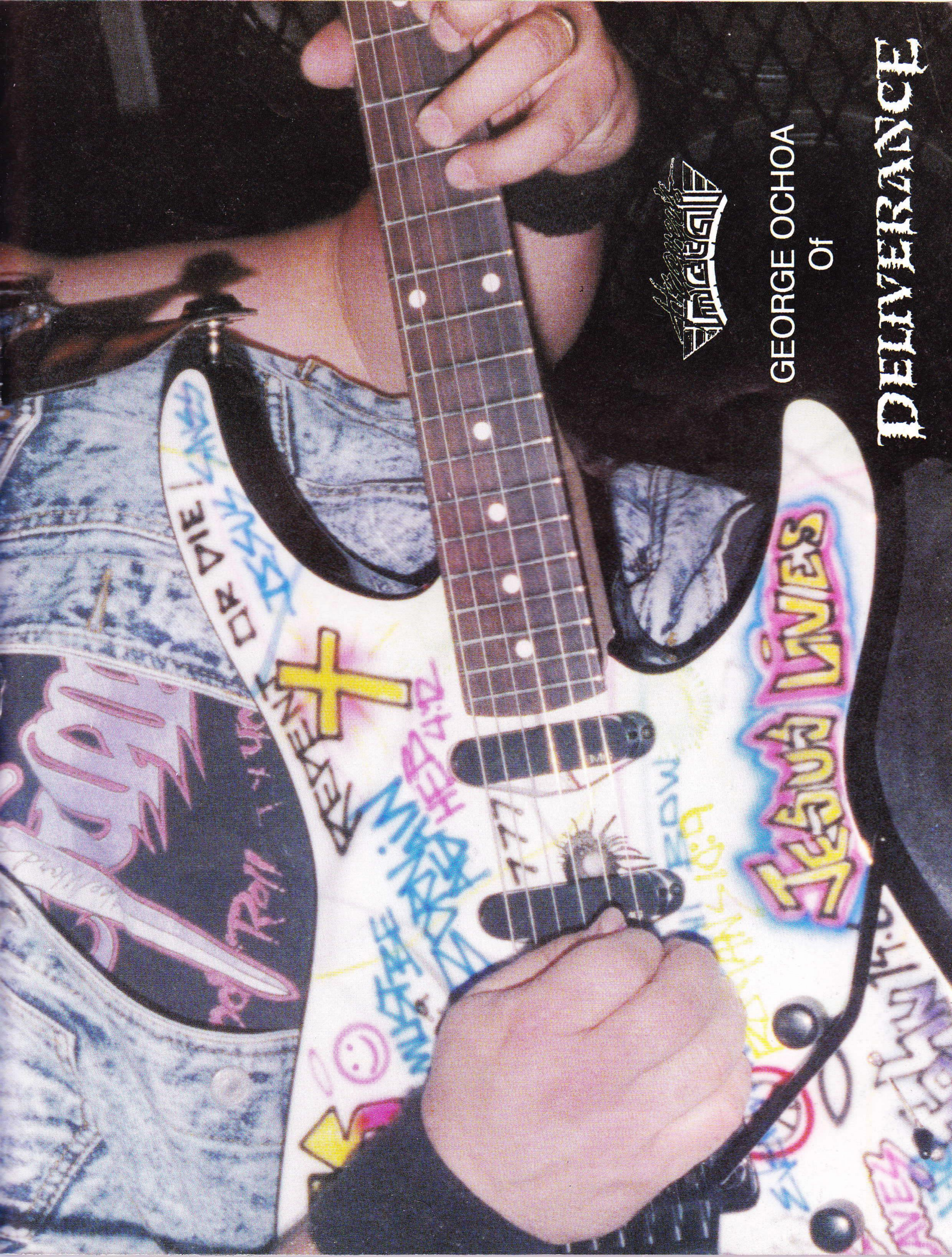
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LICKS & TRICKS

By Jeff Scheetz

This month's topic is "String Skipping." This technique is just what its name implies, playing a note or series of notes on one string, and then "skipping" the adjacent string (or strings) to play the next note or notes on one of the other strings. Whew! Thank goodness it only takes about half as long to play it as it does to say it!

It can best be demonstrated in Example 1 by taking our 3 notes per string G major scale, and playing up and down it with "skipping." It should be played as triplets (three notes per beat), and with strict alternate picking. Practice playing up and down all scales with this technique, as it will help you get out of the rut of just running straight up scales in your solos.

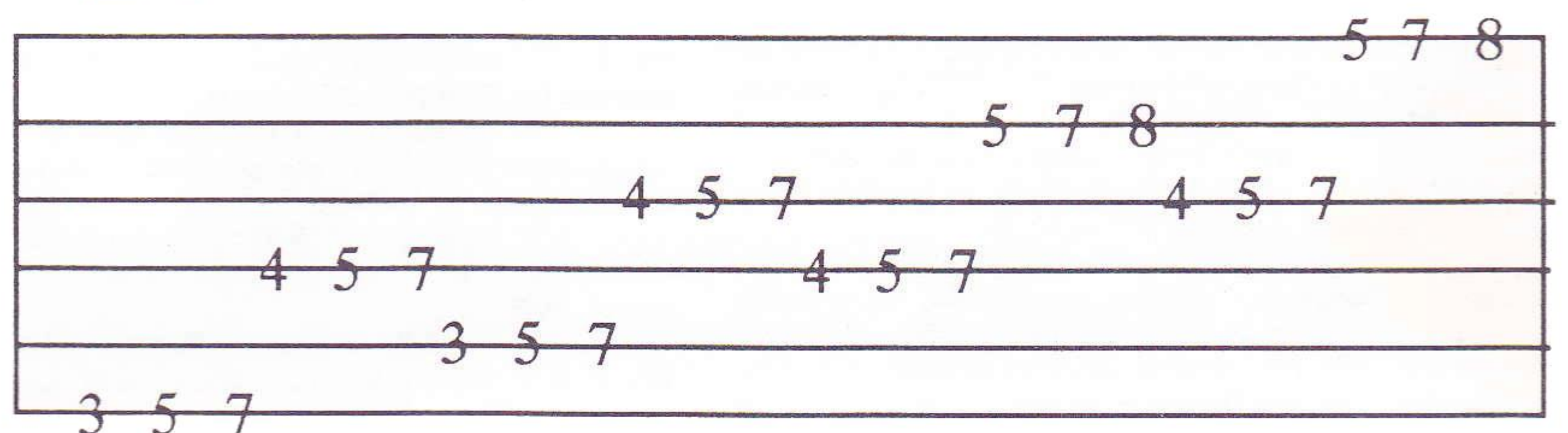
Example 2 is one of my favorite "skipping" licks. It is also based in the G major scale, and involves some large intervals, as well as a 3-note pedal point. It definitely sounds the most obliterating at about 700 miles per hour, but as always, start slowly and gradually build up speed.

Finally, you may wish to partake in some of these activities to subliminally increase your string skipping awareness: Try skipping rocks, or skipping down the sidewalk, but don't skip over any articles in Heaven's Metal!

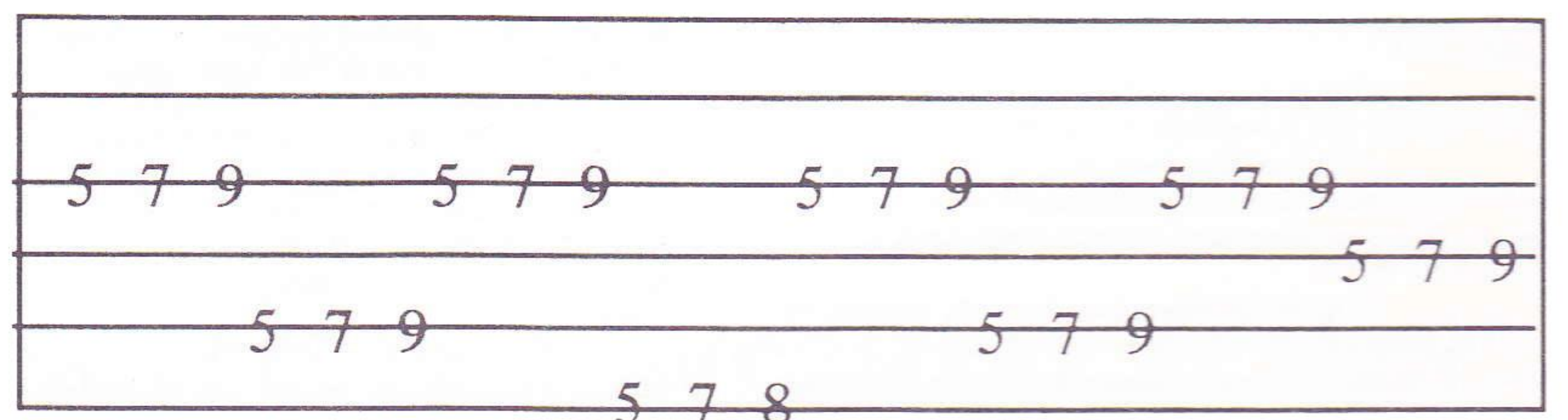
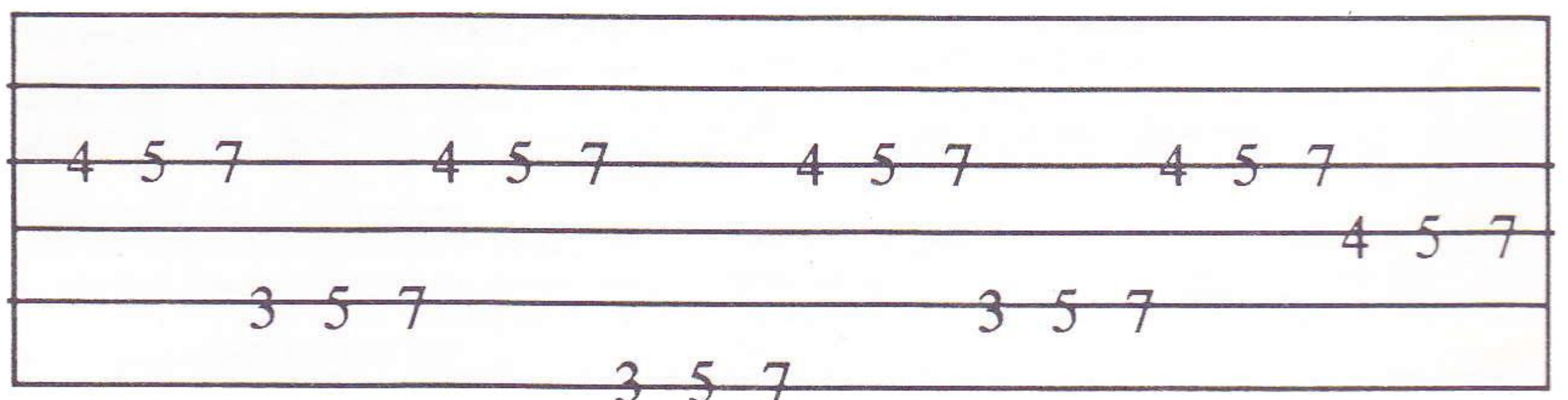
....I apologize for the silly nature of the preceding paragraph, as I did have one other thing to say.....aw, skip it! HM



Ex. 1



Ex. 2



"Hot melodic blues based metal!" Doug Van Pelt, *Heaven's Metal Magazine*

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Some of the dates have corresponding phone numbers to call for further information. If there's not a number, call the local Christian bookstores and radio stations for info.

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9/22	Bedford IN	"	"
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11/17	Chicago IL	"	"
X-SINNER			
9/14	Boston MA		
9/15	Providence RI		
VENGEANCE RISING			
9/6	Phoenix AZ		
9/7	Albuquerque NM		
9/8	Denver CO		
9/14	Minneapolis MN		
9/15	Minneapolis MN		
9/17	Wisconsin Rapids WI		
9/18	Wisconsin Rapids WI		
9/19	Milwaukee WI		
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9/28	Millersville MD	987-4714	
9/29	Warwick RI		
10/1-18	Europe!!		
10/21	Fredricksburg VA		
10/23	Raliegh NC		
10/26	Coral Springs FL		
10/27	Coral Springs FL		
10/31	Harlingen TX		
11/2	Houston TX		
11/3	Dallas TX		
11/8	Ft. Wayne IN		
11/9	St. Louis MO		
11/10	Decatur IL		
11/11	Carbondale IL		
SACRED WARRIOR			
11/2	Millersville MD		
REZ			
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9/8	Orlando FL	(312) 989-6331	
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GLENN KAISER SPEAKS OUT ON MUSIC

By Dean Ross

I was sure that Glenn Kaiser of REZ had been interviewed many times before, and I wanted to approach this interview differently, because I felt that listeners are interested in the people behind the music.

The interview began by listening to an old song by THE RESURRECTION BAND. I asked Glenn how they had progressed since then. He replied, "Hopefully in life as you get older, you grow; and that is grow in maturity. I would think that, as an artist, that would be true; and I certainly hope that spiritually that would be true. On the tape you just played me, that is probably circa '73 or '74, I would imagine."

"I think that there is a great deal of ignorance with regard to the place of music in the church... There are 380 verses in the Scriptures that speak to music."

"When the band started in 1971 it was relatively acoustic and we maintained an acoustic set. And we went on to full bore rock, what was then considered metal, in early 1972; but we continued to do an acoustic set up until about 1975, so that we could continue to play in churches, you know, nursing homes and do other things that were not as blown-out rock and roll."

When asked how has REZ responded to criticism about their musical style, Glenn answered, "Well, there are 380 verses in the Scripture that speak to music: 40 in the New Testament and 340 in the Old; that at least clearly, contextually, or that at least mention a musical instrument. I dare say that few pastors, much less bands--I don't care if you are a CCM band or if you are a pastor in a straight or a spirit-filled church--very few of you have spent that much time really searching the Scriptures with regard to music."

"So, first of all, I think that there is a great deal of ignorance with regard to the place of music in the church, in the body of Christ. And it starts with a kind of Biblical illiteracy. I have a hard time talking about this issue, without bringing that issue to the floor. If you don't know what the Scriptures teach... Luke talked about it in the Book of Acts when he spoke of Paul ministering to the Thessalonians. He said the Bereans were more noble, they had a better spirit, a better attitude than those of Thessalonica. Why? Because they, the Bereans, searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether the things that Paul was teaching and preaching were so. Well, if you have a problem with what REZ or any other Christian does with regard to music or culture or anything else, search the Scriptures to find out whether these things be so."

"So, if you are going to talk pro or

con rock, or pro or con any other style of music, you had better start searching the Scriptures--or there is no reason for us to discuss it. You are ignorant, you don't know what the Bible says. If your life and your thinking and your teaching, on an issue, topic, and on a subject is not based on Scripture, then I don't really think that you have a whole lot to say anyhow. I mean, what is your life and thought based on? Men's philosophy?

"See, Jesus said, 'You err, because you don't know the Scriptures nor the power of God.' You don't know the Scriptures nor the power of God. And again teaching the traditions of men as if they were the rudiments of Christ. Philosophies of men, if they are based on the Word, maybe they have something to say. But, I find too many people are ignorant of what the Scriptures say. They are also ignorant of church history. Every single major change musically that ever happened in the body of Christ from the time of Jesus' death and resurrection til the present was met with a great deal of scorn, ridicule, and, in some cases, legitimate concern and worry on the part of the church leadership and on the part of the body--the congregation at large. That was true of the Wesleys. That was true of Luther. That was true of Johann Sebastian Bach. That has been true of Calvin, Zwingli, etc. Why? You know not the Scriptures, so you know not the power of God."

"There is nothing in the Scriptures that gives any credence to the argument that any particular style of music is intrinsically evil. There is incredible Scripture that speaks to volume; pro volume--that speaks to intensity. In the 150 Psalms, there are about a dozen other Psalms either spoken about or where the Scriptures are there and we at least have a portion of the lyrics in the given song. But, there are 150 Psalms; and 57 of those psalms are psalms of lament, blues psalms, psalms that talk about complaints, a cry, a struggle, a hurt, a complaint, or distress. This speaks to minor chords, and to what people call 'blues scales'; blue chords, or blue notes. So, the biggest single categorization of music in the book of Psalms are songs of lament."

"So, when people start to talk about, you know, minor chords not being of God and we can't talk about the downside of life, the hurt, the struggle, that's...that's... We're talking Biblical illiteracy; Biblical ignorance with regard to a particular topic--in this case music. Again, search the Scriptures. I find no basis for the argument that certain beats are not of God. That's just not in the Word. Now, what are our teachings, our life, our philosophies, our thinking, our practice with regard to music? What is it all based on? Men, or God's Word? Men, or at least church history...and what can we learn from church history? There is incredible ignorance. That's why I am preaching. That is why I do seminars at Cornerstone festival every year. That's why I continue to write. I don't know when, but in

the Lord's time down the road, some books will be out where I speak to those issues. They're going to be boring books. They are going to deal with hardcore issues of Scripture and church history. I'll talk about philosophies, but only as you can hold them up and throw them into the light of God's Word, and in the light of church history. That's what we need to be doing."

"When Augustine quotes guys like Plato, Pythagoras, Zenas, or guys like that, he is quoting pagan philosophers. Now if the pagan philosophers are saying something that I can find Biblical basis for, I agree with it. I disagree when Augustine quotes guys like Aristotle and Plato--and these guys are the ones where the idea of intrinsic chord progressions or beats are not of God came from. This music either ennobles us and brings us closer to God or further from Him. Then I have to take Augustine to task, and say, 'Wait a minute my brother, you have missed it. You are now quoting a pagan philosopher whose philosophy is not based on anything that I find in Scripture with relationship to what it says about music.' Therefore, I have to throw his philosophy out with the rest of the trash. So, even people like Augustine, as godly and noble as they were, many times they were quoting pagan philosophers with regard to music. I find a real ignorance, a real problem with that. I can't base my life, my teaching, my thinking, or my music on what some pagan philosopher has to say about it."

"You want to minister to sinners? I know where to go. It doesn't cost any money. You can do it on weekends: youth homes, prison farms, old-folks homes..."

**Being that REZ has been around for so long, do many of the younger bands look to you as a spiritual example?

"A number of bands look to us as examples; some probably don't. Some probably think REZ is old and passe. We're one of the dinosaurs of Christian music. In a sense, we are--so that's fine."

**What are the fruits of REZ's ministry over the years?

"Many, many people have become followers of Jesus. Many people have hopefully become disciples of Jesus. Not just saved, but have begun to understand more of what it means to be followers of Jesus."

**What has been a big musical inspiration to REZ's style?

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	20	POLAND	312-989-6331		12	TBA	312-989-6331
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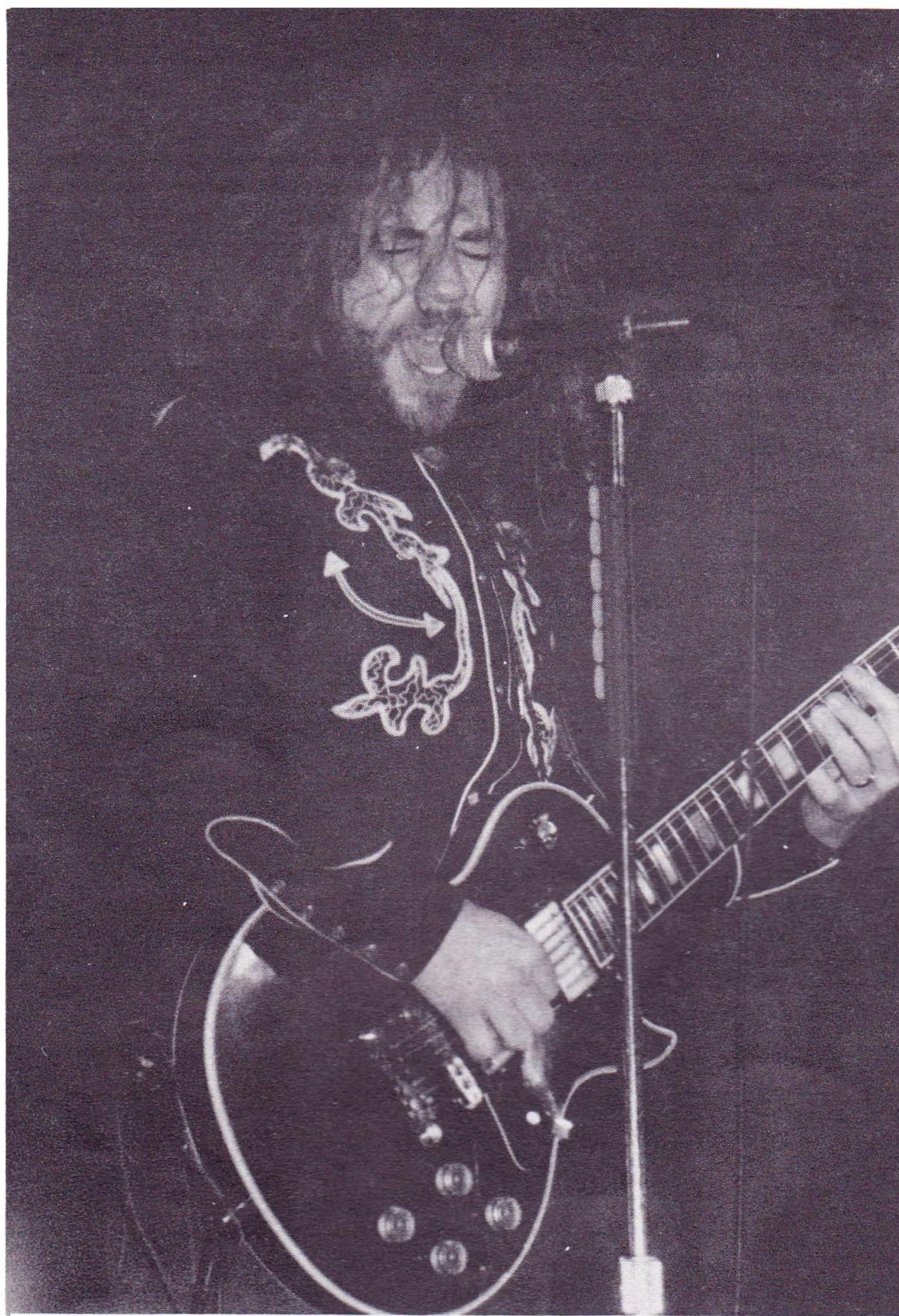


Photo by Michael S. Joray

"I think I could name a number of bands and a number of albums, and even get it down to a few songs here and there...bands like Zeppelin or AC-DC come to mind, maybe Starship. I'm not real strong on bands that don't have a lot to say lyrically. It's more the intensity of how they deliver, what they deliver, if they are delivering anything. As so, you would be very surprised actually at some of our influences.

"When people ask me, for example, 'What do you listen to around the house?' First of all, I don't spend a great deal of time listening to music, but when I do listen, I tend to key in on Reverend Gary Davis, who is this old black blues dude who did finger style acoustic guitar stuff, played a little bit of harmonica, and some slide. He's an old black shouter from Carolina. All of his songs were Gospel songs and a real blues-based street kind of thing. And that is what he did, and that is how he lived. He is a great influence. I play more of him than anything. But I also really like a number of bands like Vengeance, Whitecross, and a number of Christian bands that are more out of a thrash or very intense vein. This is not what REZ is musically, but again, there is an intensity about the music and about the lyrics. There is an intensity about the delivery, and integrity, a genuineness. I

think it boils down to two or three things: A sense of urgency, hopefully integrity, and intensity. So, I can't point so much to one band or even one style anymore.

"John Herrin, our drummer, when he is at home I think he and his wife have about worn the grooves off of the first Mylon album. I mean, like way back--the album he did with Holy Smoke. It's called 'We Believe'."

**Sensing your heart towards evangelism, I know that you have a great burden for the unsaved. How do you feel about ministering to mostly Christians?

"Years ago, when the band started, I was just chatting things through, and I told the other folks in the band that 'we are going to see a lot of Christians show up, because, if we are a Christian band, and if we have any kind of real up-front witness, lyrically, or sharing between songs; then we're gonna see Christians show up.' The only time I don't preach is in clubs. And there, we do everything shortened. And we still go out into the hall and talk with people and we still on occasion pray with people in the clubs. But again, because of all this, we are going to see Christians show up for concerts. That's par for the course.

"Also, we don't tell God, 'You only

bring sinners to the show.' That's ridiculous! It drives me crazy that bands... You want to be an evangelistic band? Go to the prison; Go to the old folks home; Go to the youth home; Go to the prison farm; Set up in a park; Get battery-powered amps and set up in the middle of nowhere. And forget your big-shots stuff. Don't sign some big contract. Who needs that? The 'Christian music scene'--what does that mean? But who needs it? You don't have to sign some multi-album contract with some big label. You want to minister to sinners? You want to go where you get 90 to 100% non-Christians? I know where to go. It doesn't cost any money. You can do it on weekends. You can work a 9 to 5 job. You never have to record an album. You don't have to worry about the 'Christian music biz'. Don't tell me you want to minister to 100% non-Christians. You don't have to spend any money. They don't have to pay you any money to do these kinds of concerts in your hometown, regional area.

"You want to get out and minister to non-Christians? Go do it. You don't have to have a secular contract and go to the clubs and open for The Rolling Stones to have a ministry to non-Christians. So, I mean, we talk...we talk. I think a lot of people in the Christian music scene are not honest with themselves, and they don't have their brains in straight. If they really want to minister to non-Christians, you can do it everyday of the week. You can do it simply, real humbly, and real cheaply. You can set up in the parking lot of the I.G.A. in Podunk, Iowa and reach tons of non-Christian kids. So, you want to do it? Do it. You don't want to do it? Well then, have big amps and a big sound...and do this like REZ is doing, or like Stryper is doing, or like U2 is doing. If you want to do it, this is fine. You have got to pray and you have got to ask God, 'What does He want us to do? What does God want me to do?' It could be leading worship in a local church. It could be evangelistic stuff. It could be whatever. If you are a band and you have lots of non-Christians coming, then great! But, if you have a lot of Christians coming, then ask God for the heart and sensitivity to minister the Word that will speak to them.

"And don't get after the concert crowd, 'I can't believe all you Christians turned up! Why didn't you drag your non-Christian friends in?' Well, it could have been the \$12.50 tickets. It could have been the fact that most non-Christians have never heard of REZ. Why would they come to a show? I mean, there are a lot of reasons, practical reasons, why these things happen. To me, it's more of a matter of what God has given you to do. Just do it, you know. Why do it? Do it, because that is what God gave you to do. So that is the answer to that. God has given REZ what God has given REZ to do. If God tomorrow says, 'Quit,' we'll quit."

After spending a little time with Glenn, I could just sense that: here was a man, like the psalmist David, after God's own heart. When we got together, we prayed and shared what the Lord was doing in our lives...not just in the distant past, but today. We need to continue to pray for the multi-faceted ministry of Jesus People USA, of which REZ is just a part. HM

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CORNERSTONE '90 IN REVIEW

Written by Doug Van Pelt/Photographed by Roger Riveland



This year's C-Stone was full of energy and spiritual life, as always, and you could sense the excitement as soon as you entered the gate. This year's lineup looked incredibly hot--right from the seminar speakers on down to the New Talent bands.

The first day started off with Donna McElroy, the singer who used to back up Amy Grant on the road. She jammed out Black Gospel style. Shortly after her set I went over and caught Painted Orange's set. These guys were smokin! They played a really cool MEGA-dance, keyboard/sequencer mania style of music like Depeche Mode. They had their stuff together.

Breakfast With Amy was up next. A lot of people were anxious to see what they were like live. (Especially me, 'cause I hadn't heard a lick of their music and Dave Johnson of White Throne voted them as his favorite live act of '89.) Well, they were weird. There was always at least five people at any one time during the set, who didn't have anything to do with the music, who were wandering around the stage doing bizarre antics (lighting sparklers that were stuck in a styrofoam head, go-go dancing, throwing flowers or cups of water into the audience...) It seems they took the levels of weirdness in Christian music and stretched them a bit. I think maybe they crossed the line unnecessarily with the go-go dancing. I laughed a lot during their set, but tried to avoid looking at the dancers with hot pants, bikini tops, and body paint on.

Mark "Gadget" Planguet put in a skillful performance on the New Talent stage, but his attempt at Industrial came across as non-hardcore and kind of lame. The lyrics were insightful, but I couldn't help but compare him to someone I'd see performing

at a youth group setting on a Sunday night.

The main stage this night was very promising: Barren Cross, Darrell Mansfield, and Petra. BC put in a good performance, even though they had to battle the sound system (a problem all the metal bands on the main stage had to face). New vocalist Vince Van Voltenburg put in a fine performance that showed why he was selected to fill Mike Lee's shoes. Why, he even played a mean acoustic guitar! The band roared through songs like Stage Of Intensity with lots of energy and zest. Ray Parris played some very cool leads, and pulled off a nice, melodic solo.

Darrell Mansfield, who is simply one of the best Christian artists--period, played a passionate set filled with harmonica, preachin', blazing leads by Eric Turner, and even a few "Trimmed And Burnin'" songs accompanied by Glenn Kaiser. Darrell never fails to perform great, all the while making Jesus greater and himself lesser.

I heard Petra put on a good set. I'm always anxious to mill around, chat with friends, and work at my booth that I'm prone to miss a good set here or there. I'd seen them in Austin recently and am glad to hear that they are playing louder and louder these days--guitar wise. They're pretty close to metal in concert.

Rick Elias & The Confessions and Larry Howard put in fine performances that night on an Evening Encore stage (I heard), but who could pull themselves away from a One Bad Pig show? I know I couldn't...The band would kill me! Friendly allegiances aside, the Pig put on a spectacular show, pulling all the stops out to top last year's C-Stone extravaganza (a chainsaw on stage?). They romped through their new material at lightning speed with precision and passion. Drummer Phillip Owens was completely tearing it up! Rarely do I see drummers going after it like he did that night; and he was drenched with sweat by the first song, appropriately titled "See Me Sweat". Thrash bands at C-stone have been throwing tons of water at their audiences in the past, but the Pig went all out. Besides squirt guns and cups of water, the band had an inflatable children's swimming pool brought out on stage, which vocalist Carey Womack did a belly-flop into from the drum riser (he slid all the way to the edge of the stage!). It was a great set, which featured some right-on preaching from the heart. Many people were touched by the Spirit of God that night. I saw and heard one guy laying prostrate under the stage that was weeping through the rest of the set.

X-Sinner took the Indoor stage the second day, rocking the big indoor building out. The band was in good form, and had the audience with 'em the whole time. Deliverance came on next and ripped into two of their finest songs right off the bat: "If You Will" and "The Call". The moshers were swirling at full speed, and Jimmy Brown went on record to say that, "A lot of people think we don't allow



moshing...we do, but just be careful..." The new material from "Weapons..." sounded good, like "This Present Darkness".

Whitecross made its main stage debut with a good set, with only the sound system holding them back from annihilating the audience. (I'm sure Rex was frustrated, because the guitars were the only thing that wasn't coming out of the mains.) The band was tight and really hitting full stride. Rick Armstrong's jazzy bass solo was nice and chunky. The crowd loved 'em.

Mark Heard played after Whitecross, and then REZ stormed the stage with most of their gear and lighting and pyro in top form. The crowd sang along to the radio single/Who cover of "Bargain". Randy Stonehill, Da, and The Swirling Eddies put on a rare triple-billed evening encore, which included the Eds wearing dresses and breaking into "These Eyes" every ten minutes. The crowd, which included the largest concentration of Ed-heads anywhere, loved every minute of it.

Believer had the other Evening Encore stage, where they flew through their material at top speed. I was TOTALLY AMAZED at the incredible tightness these guys had. Guitarist/vocalist Kurt Bachman would fly into a high speed riff with guitarist Dave Baddorf and be completely synchronized. These guys are totally professional and completely credible in their genre. I was totally blown away by Believer. Tight, tight, tight! Way to go guys!

Day three was the only metal day on the New Talent stage this year, which featured three exceptional bands: Allegiance, who pulled off a good set of Van Halen-ish party rockers; Sanctified Noise, which featured the dramatic stage antics of lead vocalist Stephan Grabosch. They were both heavy-hitting and funny. Great performance by this up-and-coming band.

Seventh Seal came up next and, to put it bluntly, performed the hottest metal set of the entire fest! Many of these guys performed across the US in the "Great American Showcase", which gave them performance skills par excellence. These guys smoked in every category: Stage presence, image, performance, and feeling. By the end of their short set, I was only ready for an hour's more. Seventh Seal is one hot band! They definitely match their demos with their live performance, adding to the strength of the songs with very strong stage moves. The guitars wailed, the harmonies were splitting your spinal chord with cutting precision. Whoa dude! Need I say more?

Hoi Polloi played the Indoor stage to a curious audience. With the band's high-quality music, one can see why C-Stone had them come all the way from "down under" to play here. Fronted by a female singer named Jenny Gullen, this band rocked with a very cool sound. I was instantly reminded of the band Avion (also from down under), because of the band's hot songs and the alternative (mixed with arena rock) guitar tones. Good band.

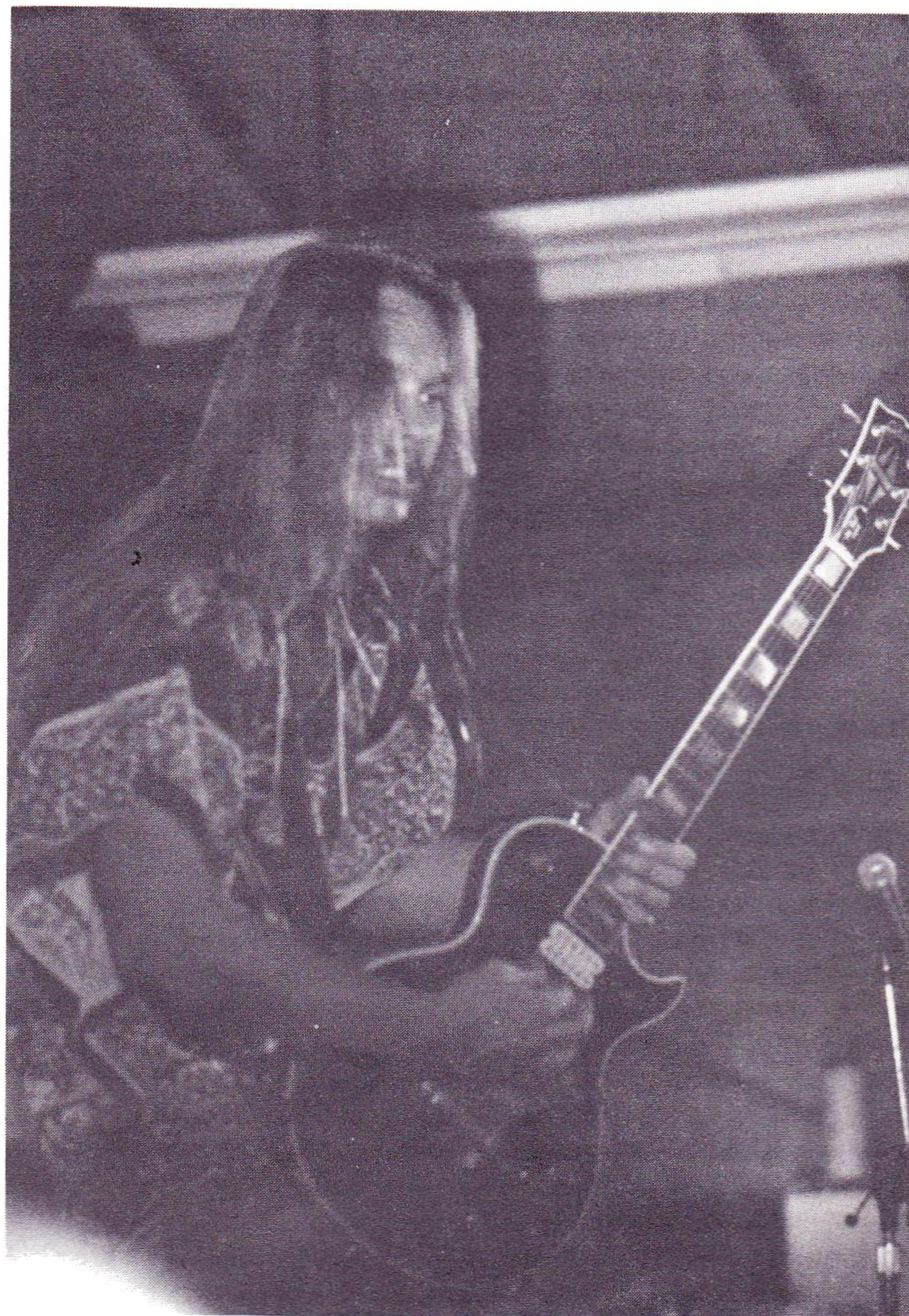
Holy Soldier descended upon the main stage with tons and tons of style, image, and energy. The band was tearing it up, but they got assaulted by a horrible mix. Every

time guitarist Jamie Cramer would do a lead, you'd have to remember what it sounded like, because it wasn't coming through the mains at all. I wanted to cry for the band, because I knew this was a big date for 'em; but that's rock 'n' roll sometimes... The band started off with a loose version of "There's Good Rockin' Tonight", and flawlessly ran through their stash of great material. One thing that really saved the show from being overshadowed by the sound system was Terry Russell's drum solo, complete with giant plastic baseball bats, which was fantastic. If the sound system would've been operating properly, these guys would've blown the audience off its feet.

Charlie Peacock took the stage next and, lo and behold, the sound system sounded perfect (Aarrgh!!). As usual, this performer's performer put on an incredible show. Sometimes I hear Charlie live and I can hear myself say, "Wait a minute, I thought Christian music wasn't supposed to be this good!" He and band laid down a groove that was miles deep. During "Dear Friend", everyone present basically experienced "church", as the song focused everyone (including Charlie) on the love that Jesus has for us. One of the festival highlights for me...

Russ Taff probably put on a stellar show. The Commissioned was gettin' down, showin' where rock 'n' roll's roots come from. Crash Dog, one of Jesus People USA's own bands, smashed a watermelon done up as Satan's head at the start of their show. The Lead rocked big time, with Andy Coyle's added guitar sound making everything sound fuller. Glenn Kaiser's voice was thrashed the next day, because he joined The Lead onstage during "Alienated".

scaterd-few played on day four to a jam-packed crowd that was ready to party. A few giant beach balls were being tossed around inside the building while the band showed why



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Biörn Stigsson and Peo of Leviticus (Photo by Donna Palmisciano)

C-Stone cont'd:

they are “the real thing” when it comes to punk/weirdness. The band was tight and Ramald’s vocals were pretty clear. Nobody Special kept the guitars wailing in this building for the rest of the afternoon, with a very loud and surprisingly melodic set. It was great seeing these two bands back to back. They both ripped.

Dead Artist Syndrome had a huge buzz going, particularly due to its impressive lineup, which included Undercover's Gym Nicholson. They were hot! Gym's guitar playing was tighter than I'd ever heard it. Lead vocalist Brian Healey's dark, droning vocals created a definite mood.

Geoff Moore & The Distance and Margaret Becker performed great sets. Geoff and crew always come off very well in concert, and this night was no exception. "On A Night Like This" was particularly moving. Larry Norman joined him onstage for "Why Should The Devil Have All The Good Music?" Margaret played all of her great songs, which keep getting better every time I hear them. Degarmo & Key finished off the night, which included another guest appearance by Larry Norman during the band's cover of his tune "The Outlaw".

Flowers Of Power arrived in a limousine amidst a big crowd awaiting their mysterious set. Several wondered who the heck they were when they exited the limo wearing flaired-out bell-bottom jeans, psychedelic shirts, platform shoes, headbands, and hippie sunglasses. By the time the band hit the stage, I think everyone knew it was **Vengeance**. They had actually pulled one over on many of the people there. Roger Martinez opened up the set with acoustic guitar in hand, leading the audience in a rendition of "Give Peace (Christ) A Chance", before **Vengeance**

ripped into a small set of their intense music. They were sounding great, especially on new tunes like "Warfare" and "Can't Get Out". **The Crucified** played next, with a blistering set of their punkified thrash; which sounds more metallic each year.

The 77's, Steve Scott, and Vector played a fantastic triple-bill two buildings down, which included songs from these Exit rocker's endless vault of great tunes. Another highlight of the whole festival was seeing Mike Delaney get onstage to dance and sing along to the encore of "Ghost Train". It was neat to see him receive some recognition for all his hard work at making rad Christian music available to the public. This set lasted well past 2:00 AM, wrapping up another great four-day festival.

Other happenin' highlights included: an impromptu worship session led by acoustic guitar-armed Jim LaVerde; seeing Roger Martinez tear it up on the huge skateboard half-pipe ramp (He was definitely overshadowed by the visiting pro skaters there, but he was getting three wheels out easily.); riding the ramp myself; seeing David Mullen cry during his set; seeing the "See No Evil" video by Holy Soldier for the first time; presenting Rex Carroll with two "Guitar Hero Award" trophies for winning the Reader's Poll; seeing Rex teach his own guitar clinic; and realizing that my tent wasn't water proof as it rained heavily on the first night (soaking all my clothes for the week); and hearing God speak through Darrell Mansfield, reminding me how simple our evangelistic message can be to the lost: "Turn from your wicked ways and follow Jesus."

HM

METAL TRACKS

Leviticus has come to an end. "We all feel a need for something new," reports Fan Club president Magnus Holm. The band will be seeking the Lord for direction for the future. Bjorn Stigsson will be spending a year in Bible school in Sweden. (God bless you Leviticus! You were one of the best!)

Haven, the hottest new band to be signed to R.E.X. Records, have only been together for 6-9 months! What's even more surprising, is the age of the band. Drummer Tim Benton and bass player Ed Bruner were still in high school while recording their debut album, and had to leave early to graduate (R.E.X. requires at least a High School diploma!).

Archon, who co-sponsored the "Give the band a new name" contest with Heaven's Metal, has found a new name-- **Legend**. The person who came up with the winning name was none other than Steve Schmutzer. Congratulations Steve! He's won a free concert in his hometown. Meanwhile, the band is working on a new recording project, which they hope to shop to labels.

In a move to show the world that they are interested in heavy metal, Star Song Records have made a deal to purchase Pure Metal Records (The ink on the deal should be dry by the time you read this). (For those that are curious--yes, that means Caesar Kalinowski is out of another job.)

Yes, it's official: **Guardian** has left Enigma and signed with Pakaderm Records. Pakaderm will be releasing "Pakaderm Power Praise Volume 1" this month. **Mike Lee** and **Dave Robbins** will both be on it.

L.O.U.D. announces that they have signed a three-year contract with Regency Records.

ACM Journal is offering a compilation CD along with subscriptions, which has

some cool alternative tunes on it.

Holy Soldier signed a booking arrangement with ICM Booking Agency, which should get them on the road soon. They were all set to go with Y&T on a small club tour, but Y&T backed out at the last minute due to poor pre-sales. The band's been getting some favorable secular press. Check out this rave over Steven Patrick's vocals in Static: "...if Robert Plant and Ann Wilson ever had a kid we didn't know about, it would be Steven Patrick."

Bloodgood will be touring Germany and Switzerland this December. The band's manager, Denny Denny, is looking for a new label for the band. Plans are set to take the whole Rock Theater entourage on the road to a few select cities across the US this Fall. To promote these shows, they will be visiting several satellite cities surrounding the show cite to throw "Video Rock Parties", where Les and Mike show the Rock Theater video to select churches/youth groups. If your church is interested, call Steve White at (206) 641-0162. An interesting thing happened with the first 30 or so CD's pressed up of "Shakin' The World": Nimbus accidentally pressed a Country band onto the disc. What a bummer, huh? (Those who got it now need to decide whether to keep it as a collector's item, or exchange it for a new one...)

Look for the new Angelica project "Walking In Faith" in your stores. Sacred Warrior should be out this month, and David Zaffiro's second solo album, "The Storm", should hit in October.

Summoned broke up and is in the process of reforming. The band's new address is: 5506 Round Rock, Garland TX 75044.

Chris Yambar, who published The Activist in the early to mid 80's, has "retired" from the Christian underground scene. "I can no longer stand by and praise something that has ICHABOD written all over it." Heavy words that are good cause for reflection.

Sacred Warrior's hotline numbers are: 1-900-369-4100, ext. 95; and ext. 96, for concert info. Keyboardist Rick Macias has left the group after much prayer and thought. He doesn't feel like he's to continue doing that.

One Bad Pigsters Carey "Kosher" Womack and Phillip Owens got married. (Not to each other...Carey to Sarah, and Phillip to Caroline.) Bassist Streak Wheeler has left the band.

Ken Tamplin's secular record deal for Magdallan includes a licensing agreement which allows Frontline to distribute into the Christian booksellers market. Some of the players on the Ken Tamplin solo album are: Lanny Cordola; Jeff Berlin; Joe Diorio; Mark St. John (ex-Kiss); Joey Tafallo; and David Sykes (Boston).

"Hot Metal Summer III" on cassette features interviews and guitar solos. The CD only features songs and interview snippets.

Cindy Cruse is doing an R&B hard rock album...can you believe it?

Former Barren Cross lead vocalist Mike Lee is now auditioning for a guitar player, bass player, and a drummer who can play both mainline metal and thrash. Competent parties send photo, bio, and demo to:

6100 Bowman Ln, Paradise CA 95969.

Tricia, the little girl pictured on the "Innocent Blood" album by REZ, is still missing. She was believed to have been abducted by a child-pornography ring.

Creed has been released in the US by Pure Metal.

Whitecross just signed a deal with CBS/Sony for distribution in Japan. "Triumphant Return" charted there at #25. This may open the door for other quality Christian metal bands to "break" in Japan.

Report has it that Zion is doing a reworded cover of the Kiss hit "I Wanna Rock And Roll All Nite". Another one of their songs is going to make it to a compilation album. This time it's "Help Me", which will appear on "Ultimate Metal 2".

Nina Llopis of The Lead had her bass stolen last January. Along with the bass, some unanswered band letters were taken. If you think one of the letters (mailed late last year) was yours, you might want to write the band at: PO Box 822, Coconut Grove FL 33233.

Shadow Wings has signed a deal with Quicksilver Records. Remember Follower? They were signed to this secular label a few years ago. Shadow Wings is organizing a tour with Trytan. If you are interested in booking them, call (612) 521-4904.

In an unrelated story, the Kentucky-based band Aslan is releasing their first single--"Shadow Of Your Wings" on the Nancy A. Reece Promotions July '90 CD Sampler. Request airplay from your local Christian rock radio show (if you have one). The band just signed a management deal with Gail Lesperance.

Deliverance is giving away Jimmy Brown's Gibson "Flying V" guitar! For every \$20 worth of merchandise purchased by mail from the band, the purchaser's name will be entered in a drawing for the guitar, which will be held sometime in December at a live concert. For a merchandise list, write: PO Box 283, Fallbrook CA 92028. Chris Hyde has left the band.

The Gospel Music Association (GMA) just added two new categories to the Dove Awards: Rap song and Rap album of the year.

For promotion in Holland, write: Gospel Promotion, PO Box 762, 3500 AT UTRECHT, Holland.



Xalt is auditioning a new drummer.

Larry Norman played seven concerts in Moscow last Spring. The performances were filmed for a documentary in the planning. He just finished a live album called "Live From Flevo". This and other Larry rarities are available from: Phydeaux Records, 1808 Hector Lane, Santa Cruz CA 95062.

Have you seen any of the dog-tags that bands like Holy Soldier and Deliverance are selling? You can get some made for your band. For a price list, call Eagle Distribution @ (316) 964-2623.

Stevie And The Saints, the baddest Blues/Rock/Boogie band in Christian music, is alive and well! They're working on a new album, which you'll hear about here as soon as it's out. Their new drummer, Tim Pope, used to be with Ray Charles, and has worked with Tony Orlando And Dawn. Yeah!

Thresher has sold nearly 2,000 copies of their "Totally Possessed" tape! For band info, write: PO Box 311, Thorndale PA 19372.

Chicago's #1 hard rock station, WVVX, has a 2-hour Christian rock/metal show on Sunday nights--The Harvest Rock Show.

Crystavox has finished recording its debut album on Regency--"Wear It Out". The band started in San Diego in 1987.

Fighter is a hot new band scheduled to record with Caesar Kalinowski producing. As of yet, no label has signed the band. Craig Erickson tells me that Bill Heller, their guitarist, plays some "heavenly" leads.

Revelation has changed its name to Dauphin (a French word meaning heir to the throne). Daryl Gable joins as the new guitarist for the band.

Due to confusion at the Post Office, the Real Rock and Intuition box was closed for a short period of time during May and June. The box is back open. PO Box 1625, Glen Burnie MD 21061.

The Rock Shop is a new concert venue in Fort Wayne, Indiana, with concerts every Saturday night. Uncompromising bands wishing to play may call (219) 422-3058.

Word has it that a group called Chosen Fate has been making some noise in the Midwest.

Torn Flesh is reportedly working on a thrash metal album, rather than punk.

Painter Music Corporation is holding a "Talent Search" contest. Two finalists will be awarded a "Career Development Services Package", valued at \$2,100 each, on October 13, 1990. To request an application, call (615) 776-5188.

Scarlet Rayne is going out on the road in November. For info, call Final Stop Booking at (619) 660-0957.

Tourniquet's Ted Kirkpatrick was interviewed in a recent issue of NAVS, the "Bulletin of the National Anti-Vivisection Society (a group opposed to the cruel treatment of animals in laboratory testing). He presented his views and inspiration behind the song "Ark Of Suffering" from the band's hot debut album. The article printed the band's address and advertised the album and "Ark..." t-shirts.

Contrary to popular belief, Bride is still Bride and they're still writing lots of new material. Troy and Dale definitely have gifts of songwriting.

Believer has been picked up for RoadRacer/MCA distribution!

Deen Castronovo, the drummer for Bad English, lent his drumming skills for Matthew Ward's new album--"Fortress". When Ward called Castronovo, a Christian, to work on the album, the first thing out of his mouth was, "Man, you wouldn't believe what Jesus has done in my life the last five years!" He said he'd "prayed for an opportunity to work on a Christian project for several years." Ward describes his new album as "energy oriented rather than technically driven, authentically raw but incredibly tight." Castronovo's performance lent further credence to his nickname, "The Beaver." Ward laughingly reported that "Dean went through one or two sets of sticks per song. They were whittled down to nothing, wood chips all over his drums. The guy is wired for 220. Everybody thinks I'm real hyper, but next to Deen I'm comatose. A lot of people look at the musical arena he's in and wonder about its validity for a Christian, but Deen really believes he is where God wants him to be right now, and that his life can be a real witness." HM

Deen Castronovo obviously delighted at receiving a fresh pair of drum sticks from Matthew Ward.



Pastor Bob's Column

Introducing Pastor Bob Beeman.

(Bob pastors the Sanctuary church in Redondo Beach, California. I've invited him to submit a column for each issue of Heaven's Metal.)



It had been a long day, so I had decided to take a little break from my office. I gathered up all my work, stuffed it into my briefcase, and headed off to my favorite restaurant. Just as I was getting settled in and began looking at the menu, a young metalhead came over to me and said, "Hey dude, aren't you Pastor Bob?" He explained to me that he had just become a Christian a few months prior. He got a great big smile on his face and said, "Isn't it awesome

to be a Christian, dude?" I guess I hadn't been thinking about that. After all, it had been a busy day. There were so many things to do--so much responsibility! Yes, I thought. It was great to be a Christian. But as I looked at this young man who was now sitting down at my booth to "rap" for a few minutes, I realized our meeting wasn't pure chance.

As I began to quiz him about his walk with the Lord, he gave me answers that disturbed me greatly! Here was a guy whose whole knowledge of Jesus Christ was hearsay. He had never really opened up the Bible and studied for himself! As he began to explain to me his concept of God and how He worked in his life, I realized that most of what he had based his faith on wasn't even Biblical! He was actually destined to either drop out of the "faith" altogether, or end up in some cult!

My heart went out to this young guy. As we talked, I opened my Bible up to 2 Timothy 2:15 and read, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the Word of Truth" As I looked up, I noticed that he looked worried. With a little tremble in his voice, he said, "I feel like I'm on the wrong track. Maybe I don't even know God!" I felt sorry for him that he had wasted so much time, but excited that God had led him to my table to talk.

As he left, I couldn't help but wonder how many Christians there were, just like him, out there. How many people were basing their whole Christian existence on hearsay? How many of them really understand God--according to His Word? How many realize the importance of personal Bible study?

As I sat there, I prayed that God would direct this young guy. I knew that God would. As long as he was checking everything out with the Bible, I knew he'd be alright!

(To get ahold of some of Pastor Bob's "Radical Active Discipleship" teaching tapes, call Sanctuary at 1-800-548-5222.)

RECORD REVIEWS

Recommendations this issue go to: Haven; The Bloodgood live albums and videos; Recon; Cool Tunes (of course); Stryper; Mastedon; Seventh Seal; Ken Tamplin; L.O.U.D.; Seventh Angel; Angelix; Angelica; Parousia; Deliverance; scaterd-few; Jeff Scheetz; and Jet Circus. If you don't see an address for ordering in the review, that means it's supposed to be available in your local Christian bookstore.

"DYING DAY" - HAVEN

Another band from the high-quality quiver of R.E.X. Records--Haven. This is not the same Haven from the Phoenix area. These are "Joy-zee" boys, and they rock steady. Comparisons to Rage Of Angels wouldn't be too far off, because these guys are so blasted aggressive musically. They really go after it, yet come across very melodic. It's hard to believe they've only been together 6-9 months...

The production is good. The guitars are given lots of room to breathe in the mix and the vocals don't make you cringe. In fact, vocalist Kevin Ayers soars with passion, guts, and lots of range. He really lets loose with some wails! The band passes the "big test" by writing some darn good songs. The guitar lines are very original, heavy, melodious, and skilled (just listen to the Spanish guitar intro or leads in *Your Dying Day*).

Whoa! How did Doug Mann do it? Out of nowhere (well, New Jersey) he pulls this incredible band that I had never heard of; and they totally shred. A band like this just doesn't happen everyday. (I'm freaking out!) I'm trying to think of the secular band they remind me of... It kinda sounds like the melodic side of Queensryche without the operatic vocals. I can't figure it out...They're not copping anybody's style, that's for sure. Okay...let's just say they're very HOT! I will have to rank this right up there with Holy Soldier as some of the hottest stuff released this year. Make buying this tape a high-priority, passionate goal of yours. Your ears will be grateful for a long, long time.

--Doug Van Pelt

"STAND ON THE ROCK" - L.O.U.D.

I find this tape very appealing. With obvious Rob Halford/Josh Kramer influences in some vocal parts and immaculate Michael Sweet-type impressions in others (!), Ohio-based L.O.U.D. dispenses melodic rock along the lines of Kiss or Scorpions, and very well at that. These three guys (plus two keyboardists for the recordings) talent and musical coherence are showcased through these nine songs, featuring a few neo-traditional hymns (*In The Garden*, *Amazing Grace*, and *Holy, Holy Lord*--yes, the one Sacred Warrior did, but different), but not forgetting/discrediting the other six tracks--all cool originals. The opener, *Follow Him*, is a strong, driving song...the kind you walk around singing ("Follow Him...because He died for you...Follow Him...He was crucified for you...He died for you"). I've been hooked on that song since the first listen. My only concern is occasionally flat vocals on the chorus (likely to be because of limited studio time).

Even L.O.U.D.'s glossy insert is worthy of note; all lyrics are printed clearly, and credited are many Christian organizations in their locality, as well as there being information about them as a ministry, and even a prayer hotline in bold print! Not bad for an independent effort.

Great rock, with great lyrics, responsibly done. For ordering info, write: PO Box 337, Middletown OH 45042.

--John Wilson

"AGAINST THE LAW" - STRYPER

Behold, all things are become new, and so it is with Stryper. The look, the sound, not to mention the Marshall stacks... (an educated guess, as of yet unconfirmed). This album rocks! Definitely their best yet.

It has intensity unparalleled in earlier releases, I mean raw power man. I was impressed right from the first song, and I'm not a professed Stryper fan. I didn't approach this with the expectation of getting what I got, "the hell rocked out of me"... Oh yeah, that's one of the songs.

The album is entitled "Against The Law" and symbolizes the change in attitude of the band. The phrase "change in image" would not be doing justice here. It is certainly deeper than that, as evidenced by the lyrical content of the first song: "You've got to point your finger/ You think you know it all/ I want you to remember/ I don't live for you/ Cause I'm against your laws." The law here is man's law of right and wrong. Spare that.

I really liked *Not That Kinda Guy*. What a righteous rockin' song. It has an early Van Halen flair to it. (Am I allowed to say that?) It certainly puts to rest some of the rumors going around. It's my favorite song on the album. (Do they say "album" anymore?)

There's something I don't think I've ever heard a metal do, at least with style: a "funky" cover. Try to imagine Earth, Wind, And Fire's *Shining Star* transformed by the renewing of Stryper. The song, though secular, has spiritual parallels on how God views us, and how we should view each other. It's a cool song man, I mean real cool.

I thought *Caught In The Middle* was right on, pointing out the error of living like a king and gaining the world. "You've got everything/ Live like a king/ But how will you live tomorrow?/ You've got what it takes/ Make no mistakes/ Don't live your life in sorrow." Pretty heavy. Somebody send Donald a copy of this song (ed--that's Mr. Trump to you, Nelson).

I'm not going to do every song. I'll let you do that yourself. Okay, okay, there's a couple songs about guy/girl relationships, but I think even apostle Paul would approve. I've always pictured Paul as bangin' heads... I mean a head-banger.

Does this album (there's that word again!) rock? In California terms: "It's most excellent man." Should it be in your collection? Only if you're a metalhead who appreciates metal at its best. A "most excellent" production too.

So are these guys still soldiers under command? You'll have to ask them. So, where

are the yellow and black stripes, guys? That was Stryper from the *Yellow and Black Attack* days. This is *Stryper Against The Law*. Any questions?

--Nelson Myers

"LOFCAUDIO" - MASTEDON

"Wow!"--This was the first word out of my mouth when I popped this cassette into my deck! If the names John & Dino Elefante, and yes--the man who I personally consider as the only guitarist (next to Ty Tabor) to have the style, finesse, along with the get-down/get-dirty, in-your-face feel aka Steve Vai--Tony Palacios (Guardian) mean anything to you...then you know you're dealing with quality.

Mastedon's second effort is very impressive. The songs on this album are filled with great melodies, clean soaring vocals, fantastic guitar work, a solid rhythm section, and it's all enhanced with such a clean, very well done production that I'm sure there will be a lot of secular producers and record executives who will be envious!

This is what "Christian music" is all about! Setting the standards, not following them!

It wasn't until recently that I've gotten excited about new, up and coming artists, but with the likes of King's X, Holy Soldier, and now Mastedon making their mark, I'm now literally running to the record store to get these new albums!

I highly recommend this album to everyone. If you're still not sure, find a friend who might already have it (right Doug?) and listen to it one time through. You'll agree it's worth forking out your hard-earned cash!

Now if you'll excuse me, I've got to listen to this album again!

--Joey Knight

"AN AXE TO GRIND" - KEN TAMPLIN

Alright fellow rockers!! What can we say about Kenny, except that he's a smokin' happenin' dude! Ken has a way of demanding your ATTENTION! From note one he grabs you by the throat and says, "Listen up!"

In addition to "between the eyes" rock 'n' roll, there are a couple of very nice instrumentals. *The Continuing Saga* is somewhat of a Southern Blues 12-string filler which works very well. The second is *Music Box*, that features some very well-done, intricate guitar work. *Coming Home* has an instrumental opening that takes you on a roller coaster of guitar work, which leads into the song--which is a great Blues Rock tune.

Along with his fantastic vocal work, Kenny vocalizes a lot of truth on this album. The lyrics tell it like it is (and just the way I like it). One particular line which caught my ear was off the song *Straight Between The Eyes*:

"They say money talks/ and B.S. walks/ But I think they go hand in hand."--Great lyric Kenny!

This album has that BIG rock sound that Kenny has accomplished in doing very well! How about you and I working together sometime

Ken?! Anyway, don't leave this great-sounding album off your list. You won't be sorry you didn't!

--Joey Knight

"COOL TUNES" - VARIOUS

At least a dozen compilation albums have appeared to showcase Christian rock music in its emergence during the last few years. Now, with the Christian rock underground rising to the surface, a certain metal magazine editor has taken the matter of exposing the Kingdom's talent to heart and gallantly produced and unleashed one of the most important collections yet, exposing the passion and zeal of 14 fascinating bands--six metal, two thrash, and six mellow-to-hard (he refers to them as "aluminum"--Doug, you metalhead). Some of these bands are on record labels, others aren't; all are very impressive and very professional--in fact, world class. No joking.

Cool Tunes opens up with an evocative, straight-ahead rocker called **Porno People** by Blairing Out from Santa Ana, CA, which makes a sobering impression: "Porno people, porno people, porno people, you're gonna DIE!!!" Praise the Lord! Next comes the perfectly obnoxious proclamation "Jesus Is God" by (Country & Western stars) Deliverance, followed by Bloodgood's **Battle Of The Flesh**--not the one you're used to, but the original, from when they were underground metal! Paradox (true metal missionaries) follows with **Give A Listen**, a melodic and harmonious anthem with a tromping rhythm; record labels should heed the title's (self-explanatory) commission. Next we meet Guardian with **Look To The Future**, circa 1987, otherwise totally unavailable, followed by the ever-intimidating Believer, who blast us here with I.Y.F. (In Your Face), a comparatively tame thrasher showcasing musicality just when you thought that all they could do was bark and roar. Surprise!! This one's instrumental.

A rockin' 1986 tune called **Power** by Sacramento-based First Strike comes next with a hooky chorus much like **Bottom's Up** from Van Halen II: "I've got...the Power! I've got...the power!" Then comes my first-ever listen to Sweden's prize act, Charizma, with a strong auditorium rocker called **Take You High**. In the chorus they proclaim a kind of rock 'n' roll freedom concerning declaration of the Truth to all nations, even the Superpowers...if you can call them that. Thus ends Side Metal (not Side One, "Side Metal"...Doug, you metalhead). Side Aluminum begins with a regal effect: The Cry's mesmerizing **There Is One**. Very, very good. Fellow Austin, TX rock personalities The Paul Q-Pek Band then serve up a generous dollop of psychedelia with skill and intensity, with **Kingdom Come**. Boy howdy, I so wish this band were still around! Nashville's Legend (formerly Archon) then presents **After The Fall**, a tune that is so...awesome it's hard to comment! Produced immaculately!!

A new tune by Kemper Crabb, **Sea Of Blood**, confronts the abortion issue as it truly is--a curse, no less; and it's laudable that someone did it in a non-thrash capacity.

Next we welcome **Take Me** by Narnia (but recorded in 1986, when they were Aslan), which sounds like **Sweetheart** by Franke & The

Knockouts (pop radio '82), and expresses an attitude of surrender to our God.

Concluding the collection is a very cool tune by The Nation (defunct), an exceedingly intense number that voices honestly the concern of, well, brokenness before God, not overlooking the (integral) assurance that God has human-like empathy too.

Most of the songs on Side Aluminum (sheesh!) have an interesting likeness: they are way neat! They took me on a trip. (Is that what keyboards are for? So that's what keyboards are for!)

Do not miss Cool Tunes, or you really will have!

--John Wilson

"WOODPECKER STOMP" - JEFF SCHEETZ

Attention all guitar instrumental fans! Put your collection aside, because here comes Jeff Scheetz with his loaded 6-string, and he's here to stay!

Jeff's latest effort, affectionately entitled **Woodpecker Stomp**, begins with the title track catching your attention right away.

Not only does Jeff show his well executed expertise, but the boy knows how to get down and funky with the best of them during **Get Busy**. (Does Arsenio's Posse have an opening? Hmmm.)

Jeff is backed with one very rock solid rhythm section, featuring: Kent Burnham on drums; Lance Logan on bass; and Bill Westfall on keyboards. These boys play with taste, feel, and really enhance and compliment Jeff.

Jeff tops off the CD with a rippin' version of **Amazing Grace**. This will definitely be a part of my collection!

--Joey Knight

"WALKIN' IN FAITH" - ANGELICA

This follow-up to last year's self-titled project succeeds in further defining this skilled artist. Guitar virtuoso Dennis Cameron has put together another competent lineup, but the best thing about this release is the songwriting. Each song is consistent with the other. They don't all sound like carbon copies, but as last year's release fluctuated too much with good, fair, and poor hooks; this release stays at a high level through all ten songs. The new vocalist, while not a Rob Rock, is no slouch either. He fits right in with the commercial style of the music.

Harvest, the obligatory instrumental here, is one beautiful, melodic masterpiece that floats the listener down a stream of thoughtful notes. The lyrics on the album seem to be personal reflections of Dennis' walk with the Lord, allowing Christians some tips on finishing "the race." Check out **Bring Into Being**:

"...Gotta live by what I've read/I want to see a little part of my destiny/ Custom fitted and blue-printed in harmony/ Bring into being/ the dream that I kept seeing..."

A good follow-up for Angelica, who is quickly becoming a force in melodic metal.

--Doug Van Pelt

"STEP ON IT" - THE JET CIRCUS

This Swedish trio is out to explore almost all venues of music on this album. The band kicks it open with the title track, **Step On It**. They seem to have branded their own version of "Motorcycle Rock", and they do it well.

Rockin' Horse is a 90's version of 50's rockabilly. Something most hard rock/metal bands are catching on to is Rap, and The Jet Circus is no exception. **Victory Dance** is a unique blend of Rap, Rock, and dance music for those who can't sit still.

I enjoyed listening to this CD, and I believe you will too. (ed--This project will probably not be released in the US until January of 1991. We knew you'd want to know how good it was in advance.)

--Joey Knight

"WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE" - DELIVERANCE

Okay Doug, Wasss up with this Home Slice? You see Heaven's Metal readers, Mr. Van Pelt knows I'm not an avid listener of thrash, but I enjoy all music--period.

Anyway, moving right along... The album opens with a spoken piece called **Supplication**. The background music sets the mood as we hear about spiritual warfare:

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal/ but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."

Throughout the album **Deliverance** shows that they play for keeps! (No weenies allowed.) What really impresses me about this band is that they are a very tight unit, and I do mean unit. It's clear to see that they work together, and don't have a player or two get off on tangents.

Great message, great head-slamming music. So what more can I say, except GO GET IT!! Great job guys!

--Joey Knight

"HEED THE WARNING" - 7th ANGEL

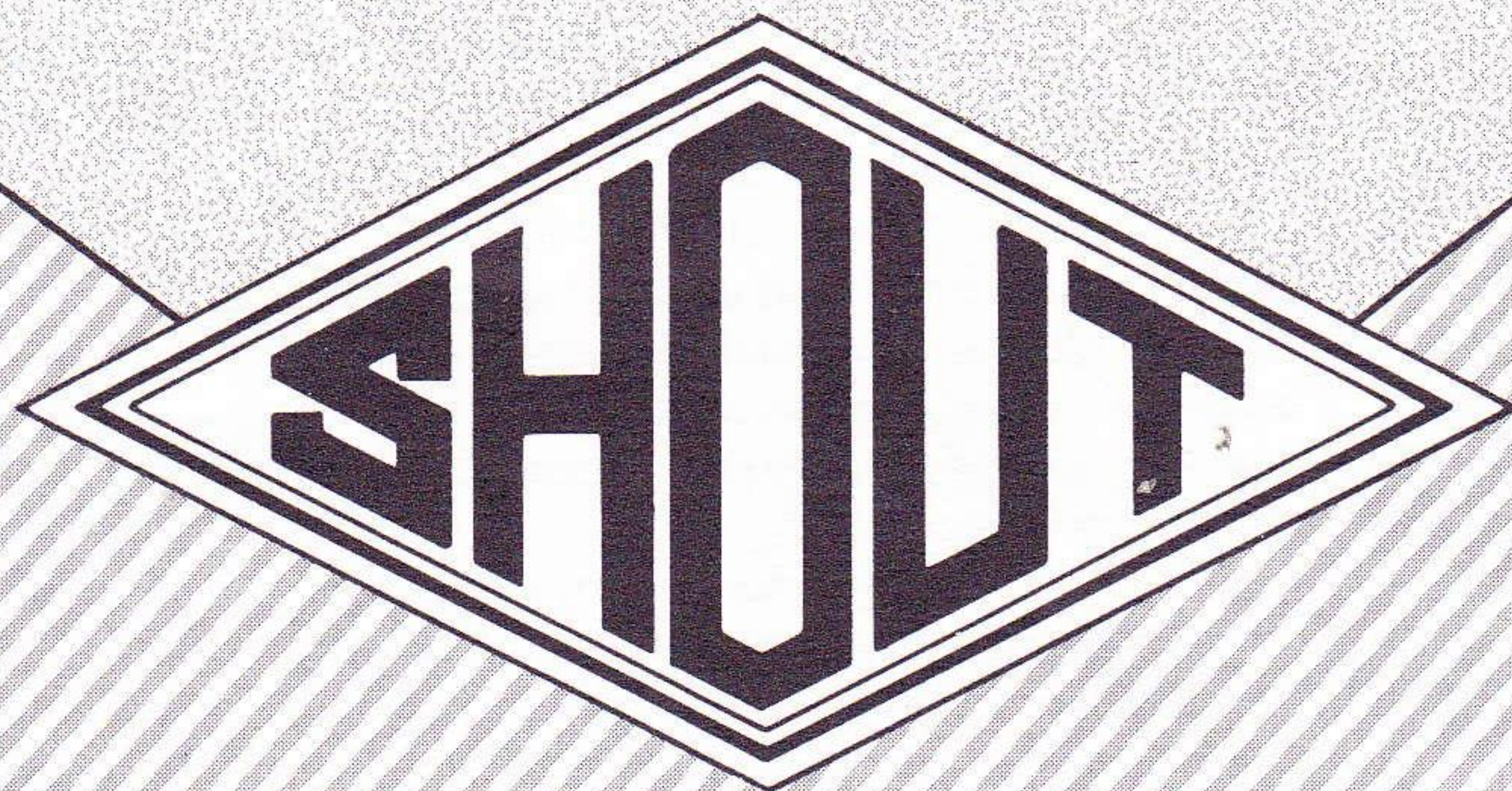
With this 4-song cassette, recorded in March of 1990, England gives us a new speed metal band that knows how to play! Unlike (too) many acts in this category, **Seventh Angel** is actually quite adept musically. The sound is very close to that of D.R.I.--fast 'n' heavy with good, plodding parts thrown in at times. Rhythmically this band is very tight, with tough, "growly" vocals. And vocalist Ian Arklen is also the talented lead guitarist. Rad!!

The opening song, "Forbidden Desires", really sticks in my mind due to its very aggressive rhythm. Right in the middle it goes into a very technical guitar solo section with a really dreamy backup music while fast double-bass drumming alone carries the rhythm. The second track, **Seven Angels**, exemplifies one of thrash metal's highest callings--the Revelation!! **I Of The Needle** has a really solemn and creative soft guitar and vocal part much like old J. Priest or Iron Maiden at the end. The final cut, **Heed The Warning**, is a literal trip through the land of speed metal with good time changes, ending in a bell toll!

This tape is classic in that the musicianship is really there. Clean production completes it, and even the package is intimidating.

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--John Wilson

**"ALIVE IN AMERICA
/SHAKIN' THE WORLD"
-BLOODGOOD (Video)**

Anyone who has had the pleasure of seeing Bloodgood in concert knows that this band can dramatically communicate the power and the passion of the Gospel in a way that few white metal bands have been able to do. And that was with just the band members and the music itself. Imagine what it would be like if Bloodgood had access to professional Broadway quality sets, props, effects, and over two dozen actors and dancers to illustrate their songs? Well, our prayers have been answered!

Two killer live videos that total over 95-minutes. 25 songs selected from all of Bloodgood's albums. Volume I is "Alive In America" and features several tunes from "Rock In A Hard Place" and "Out Of The Darkness". The sound quality is fantastic and, due to the superb enunciation of lead singer Les Carlsen you can understand every word. The highlights here are *Alone In Suicide* where a girl is seen struggling with her decision to be or not to be. At the climax of the song she slits her wrists and the life blood flows out of her. Graphic but moving images depicting a life without hope. You feel the loss as Les sings the powerful song of lament, *She's Gone*. Volume One ends with *America*, Bloodgood's anthemic cry for a nation to return to God. As Les waves the flag proudly, you know that there is hope for the country and the individual.

Volume One is great, but Volume Two is an absolute must-have, for it dramatically portrays the trial, crucifixion, and resurrection of Christ. If you have never seen a visual image of Jesus being brutally beaten accompanied by a frenetic rock music assault, then your senses are in for a shock. The songs are killer as Kevin Whistler's driving double bass drums put the classic *Crucify* over the top. Pilate is passing the buck, Jesus is stripped, beaten, and whipped...the crowd is chanting "CRUCIFY!"...and Bloodgood is whipping up a metal frenzy. If you watch and listen, you will be moved. My wife, who is not a big metal fan, was crying when she witnessed the crucifixion scene. Lessings *The Messiah* as the guitar of Paul Jackson melodically witnesses to the fact that Jesus is the chosen One.

The band then celebrates the world to come with *Seven and Never Be The Same*. Then Bloodgood ends with a reminder that we still fight a battle today. In a treat for long-time fans, they rip through a medley that includes *Demon On The Run*, *Killing The Beast*, *Battle Of The Flesh*, and *Black Snake*. Then bassist Michael Bloodgood tells the crowd that we need not fear the enemy, for "greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world." The firework fountains go off and the band takes its final bows and you have just witnessed the best Christian music video package ever produced. Get Bloodgood Live today and share it with your neighborhood.

--I.B. Willis

**"ALIVE IN AMERICA
/SHAKIN' THE WORLD"
-BLOODGOOD (Audio)**

Thank you Bloodgood!! Well, after five years, Christianity's most impressive metal act has released a two-volume set of live material. "Alive In America" (Volume One) and "Shakin' The World" (Volume Two) recap 22 songs from all four albums, plus a medley consisting of tidbits from four superb tunes from the early days.

Nothing here sounds especially different from the original album recordings--a plus if you're pleased by a band who can uphold its musical standard in a live setting, or a minus if you're looking for a more gutsy, theatrical presentation in concert.

I do miss David Zaffiro's crunchin', percussive guitar rhythms, but as this Seattle, WA audience can attest, Paul Jackson knows his chops (A guitar solo would have been nice!).

Although you have to actually see Bloodgood in concert to fully experience the flurry of excitement they generate, these volumes exhibit (well) the musical coherence and accessibility of Christian metal's most legendary band.

--John Wilson

"BEHIND ENEMY LINES" - RECON

Anybody who appreciates bands such as Queensryche or Sacred Warrior will appreciate this five-piece band. Yet, they have their own sound and a special approach to writing music. Strong, driving metal...this band's guitar sound has good sustain, texture, and character. It doesn't sound like your typical Marshall stack sound, yet it consists of very good power and distortion.

A very talented and creative band that apparently consists of musicians who are well-seasoned in various musical tastes and training. For example: arrangements that resemble what an orchestra director might develop, the use of classical guitar, Oberheim-sounding keyboards that sound like what Rush used on their albums during the early 80's, whistling, various uses of rests, holds, off-beats, accents, the use of traditionally non-heavy metal percussion instruments such as orchestral bells or chimes, and others.

You can't classify them into any one category such as thrash or speed metal or melodic metal since they blend these and others in a smooth transition. They maintain a good balance and use of vocal harmony.

With this being their first album, I am looking forward to hear what future albums will hold. I count it a blessing to have been able to review this album, particularly since I hear a professionally done album that reaches out and gets your attention.

The lyrics are cut and dry, yet they are not dogmatic or over-bearing to where a non-Christian would feel that the person singing is pious or judgmental like a Pharisee. Most importantly, this album is sure to minister to anybody; to the non-Christian, the reality and need for Jesus; to the Christian, more appreciation and worship of Jesus; to the back-slidden Christian, the need to come back to the Lord.

The vocalist, Vett Roberts, has a good voice in which he has a considerable range and overall control of it. He is creative in choosing

what octave range to sing in as well as what type of voice texture he wants and feels is needed. Also, he knows when to use less of any formal training he may have had, since many people, myself included, appreciate a good balance of a less "extreme vibrato opera" rigid voice and one more natural. Joe Elliott of Def Leppard is a good example of this ability. He knows when to "speak/sing", when to "sing/sing", when to "scream/sing", and when to "gravel/sing".

--Larry Martin

"RUFF DRAFF TOO" - SEVENTH SEAL

The second helping of music from this "too talented to go unnoticed band" is the kind of stuff you quickly eat up and ask for more. This "all black white metal band" (I'm not a racist, that's for sure, but--like it or not--this is a great marketing angle. It only helps the band get more notice. Look at Living Colour.) lays out some more quality melodic metal with *Can't Stop Believing*, which includes way-big BGV's and some great double guitar licks. This band could eat up the radio and spit it out!

Purged shows that they can crunch out a dinosaur rocker, plus it throws in some funky flavor. The vocal delivery reminds me of Living Colour's *Open Letter To A Landlord*. (I hope this band doesn't get dismissed as just a copy of Living Colour--they're professional.) *Fire* shows that the band can play real fast and still not lose their commercial kick. Lyrically, it's a really cool lament/prayer over one's spiritual condition: "...my land is on fire!"

To order this, and believe me--you'd be a fool not to--send \$5 to: PO Box 5000093, Palmdale CA 93550. Tell 'em Doug sent ya.

--Doug Van Pelt

"SPIRITUAL WARFARE" - AWAKE

From Austin, Texas comes a powerhouse trio with 13 well-written songs. A progressive unit in the vein of Rush, Awake has laid down some very melodic songs with tons of intricate playing. Unlike other progressive bands that lose the listener with too much going on at once, Awake has made their songs commercial.

Of all the bands that have obvious Rush influences, I think Awake has graduated from the "Rush School" with the highest honors. They're a metal band, but a classy one. The beautiful ballad *sy one*. The beautiful ballad *Change*, with its skillful acoustic guitar and tasty drumming, is ample evidence. Keyboards can be found all over this album, but they're used properly and not dominating. *Mirror, Mirror* blends the two mediums well, where guitar leads soar above keyboard-woven textures.

Songs like *The System*, *Unjust*, and *The Kingdom* find the band relishing in its progressive nature, tactfully rocking out. Musicians will appreciate the hard work in these songs, and respect the songwriting.

See Me Now is an arresting song that showcases the fine vocal chords of bassist/vocalist/keyboardist (and all-around Geddy Lee character) Mike Botello. As with most trios, there's not room for one person to hog too much room, as drummer Rob Battalion and guitarist Jesse Villegas well attest in this song.

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High energy excitement, originality, and a deep conviction that Jesus changes lives. I think that best sums up Gypsy Rose, Kansas City's most unique Christian band. No glam, no thrash, just gut level Rock 'n' roll!

I've been following Gypsy Rose's career for the last year, and every show has been new, fresh, exhilarating, and always full of surprises. Recently I had the pleasure of meeting with Bobbie Jean, vocalist/guitarist for the band, following their "Greater is He that is in Us show (which totally blew me away).

JP: Wow! That was one heavy duty show!

BJ: Thanks! Believe it or not, rumors were going around that this show was cancelled, and it still packed out.

JP: I guess we know who started that rumor?

BJ: Yeah! The devil's such a liar.

JP: So what's new with Gypsy Rose?

BJ: Well, we're getting ready to go into the studio and do an album, so that will be a blast.

JP: How many songs will be on the album?

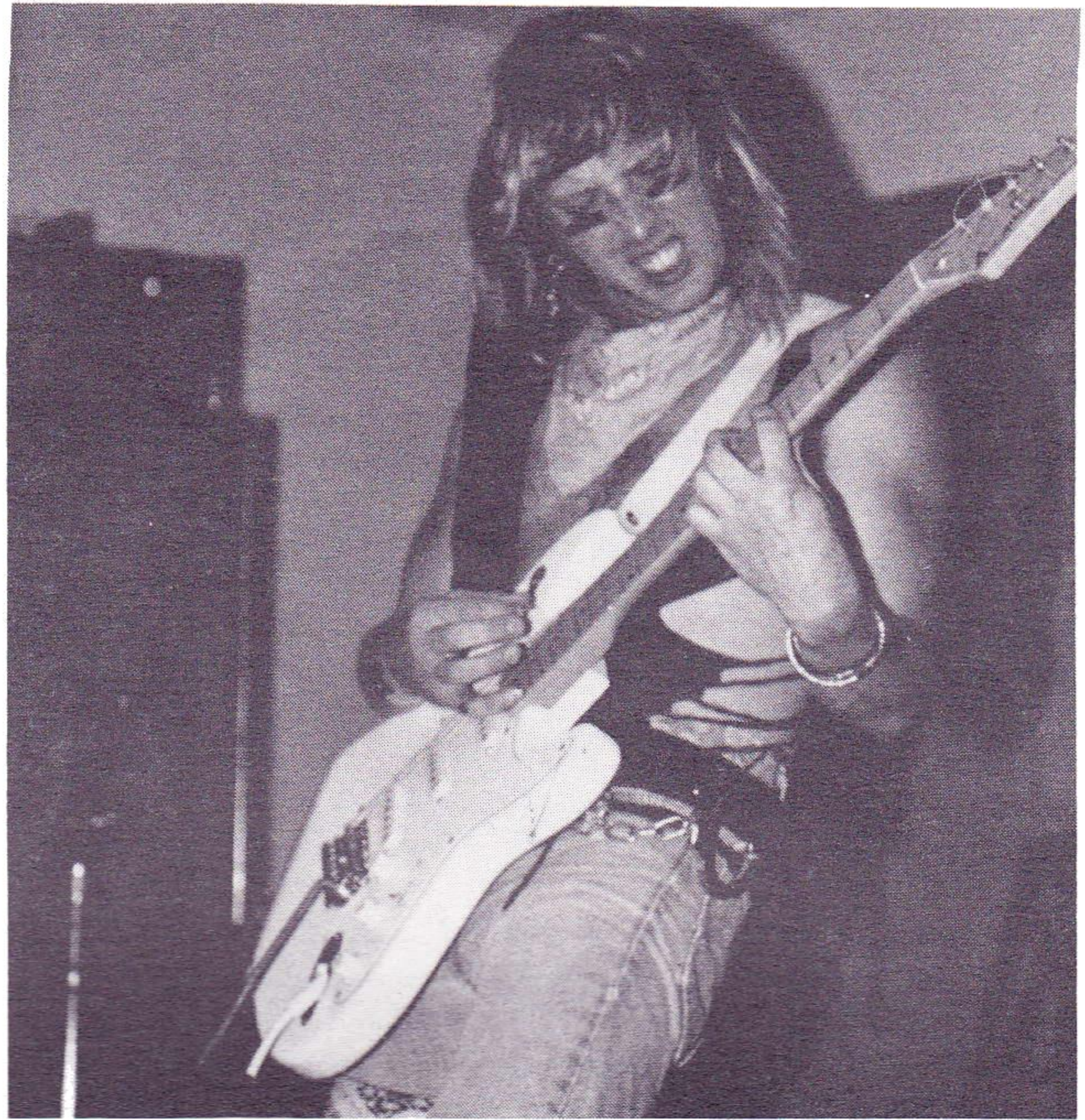
BJ: Eight: two ballads, and six rockers; at least that's the way it looks so far.

JP: Bobbie, you do a lot of preaching during your shows. How has that effected the crowds?

BJ: I'm here to present Jesus, and I do talk about a new life in Christ a lot, and I give altar calls. But we also do a straight ahead rock 'n' roll show. We played a bar, and after the show, the owner said anytime we want to play there, 'Come on back.' God has given us favor with the unsaved, without any compromise!

JP: Now wait Bobbie, Bars!? Come one, Christians don't belong in bars, do they?

BJ: Probably to the religious we're wrong, but I'm giving Christianity, not religion. The religious leaders mocked Jesus. We play the same song there we play at church, and we've seen salvation at the bar. We've even been called by non-Christians to do parties, knowing the music we do.



JP: Are you seeing souls saved?

BJ: Yes! At our shows and our rehearsals, not just getting saved, but attending church and becoming involved.

JP: Tell me about the others in your band.

BJ: My favorite part! Julie Graybill is our bass player. She's tremendous! This is Julie's first rock 'n' roll gig, but I'm here to tell ya, she's most definitely a Rose. Next, Chris Moore on drums. This is also Chris's first band, and he has developed and added so much to the Rose. Tommy Lee, Rikki Rocket...watch out!

Without either of the two, it just wouldn't be the same Gypsy Rose.

JP: I've heard Gypsy Rose is auditioning a guitarist.

BJ: Yes, we are. I'm a great frontman, and I say that humbly. I love playing the guitar, but to play and sing, well, I can't get as wild on stage as I'd like to!

JP: You're pretty wild now!

BJ: That's just a sample.

JP: Is there anything you'd like to add in closing?

BJ: Yeah! You know, rockin' for Jesus is like being a preacher. If you don't mean it, don't do it. The fall of a Christian band is just like the fall of a TV evangelist—a black mark on all the others. So think about it, and fight the good fight!

Gypsy Rose raising the banner, fanning the flame and rocking the house for a reason: a deep love and concern.

If you would like to write Gypsy Rose, the address is:

Gypsy Rose
7316 Lydia
K.C. MO 64131

(Interview conducted by Janice Porterfield)

Lyricaly, the band covers stark truths of spiritual warfare, as well as vulnerable glimpses into the writer's heart. Faith encapsules the band's statement of faith:

"...try to awake and realize/ that the words I speak aren't fairy tales, fables, or lies/ Christ our savior is alive...life is precious to the wise/ but to the foolish and unfaithful man/ there comes a sad surprise..."

A great debut album!

--Doug Van Pelt

"SYLENTIGER" - TRYTAN

Trytan is back after three years of silence with a very heavy album. If you're expecting the dominating keyboards that were present on their debut, *Celestial Messenger*, don't! The keys are there, but only enough to enhance the wailing guitar of Lary Dean. This album is the perfect compliment to *Celestial Messenger*. With the melodic, commercial overtones of the first album, and the jammin' guitar oriented songs on *Sylentiger*, in concert, Trytan could put on one hot show.

The standout cuts are: *Take Cover*, which has a great intro similar to that of *Out Of Time* by Barren Cross (that of the rapture taking place). This would be the perfect concert opener. Other hot songs, *Here To Stay*, *Playing With Fire*, and the title cut have the same basic lyrical theme--denying ourselves and turning to the loving arms of Christ.

The only weak points are that some of Lary's guitar leads sound too similar to other leads on the album. Also, while new drummer Jim Dobbs is good, he just doesn't have that complex style that former Scotty Blackman (former drummer) had.

Overall, Trytan has released a great second album...even the cover artwork is great--a Bengal Tiger with a crown of thorns in his mouth. At this pace, Trytan will continue to be an innovator--instead of a follower--in Christian metal.

--Jeff Lott

KING'S RANSOM (demo)

Out of the vast openness of Canada comes a very tight, yet versatile metal band, known as King's Ransom. This 3-song demo shows awesome potential in the realms of pop and/or power metal. Lead vocalist Dave Pearson delivers a style somewhat reminiscent of Stryper's Michael Sweet, while the bass, wailing guitars, and right-on timekeeping by drummer Joe Mellen, bring a support that results in a commercial hook-laden demo, worth checking out.

The first song has a pop metal sound, giving the listeners the assurance that Jesus "lived and died cuz He loves you/ and when He comes again/ we will be where dreams come true." The second song is a rockin' ballad that states that Jesus, no matter what you've done, or whatever the situation around you is, can set you free. Indeed. Now the third song, titled *No Alibi*, caters to those of us (myself included) who really appreciate straight-ahead power metal anthems, complete with just "ah little bit ah guitar shreddin'" (know what I mean dude?).

For an underground custom demo, the production and the mix really showcase the band well. Given some solid direction and encouragement, expect to hear more from these Canadian rockers. Write 'em at: King's Ransom, 50 Bridlewood Dr, Welland, Ontario, CANADA, L3C-6J7.

--Steve "Smash" White

"SEASONS OF LOVE"

- MAD AT THE WORLD

Friends, neighbors, Cabinet members, Mr. President, and countrymen: *Mad At The World's* long-awaited third album is finally here. For months questions and rumors about the band's radical new look and sound have been rising everywhere. (I thought they were radical before.) The curiosity was killing me, so I grabbed the first cassette of *Seasons Of Love* I could find.

When I put in the tape--expecting to hear that British accented operatic voice and that "dancing on your grave" drum machine--I thought I was going to drop my teeth on the floor of my Chevy Blazer. Did the drum machine pump out that beat? Did the sequencers kick me in the face? No...what is that sound??? Guitars and live drums...Oh my gosh!! Instantly I could describe it with one word: "different".

So, is different bad? Not in this little pig's straw house. The sound is live, raw, and full of more passion than any other MATW release. Maybe I'm behind the times, but I love a band that is not ashamed to say the Name of Jesus; and Roger Rose, the band's singer, songwriter, engineer, and producer, all but spells it out on the title cut.

"The voice inside the mind is Jesus telling you that love will see you through again."

Highlights include *City Of Anger*, which describes the price of hate in one's heart, and *Promised Land* (my favorite), where Roger sings about drugs in a way that reveals the form of deception that takes hold of the user. Other greats are *Marshmallow Land* (which I haven't figured out yet), and *The Love That Never Fades*, which states that "Love is forgiveness, patience and kindness/ mercy that never fades/ faithful and holy, pure and devoted/ this is the love that God made."

Don't dare compare this album with any other MATW release. This one's in a class by itself. With Randy Rose (who sings a couple of tunes) on drums, Mike Pendleton on bass, and Brent Gordon on guitar, *Mad At The World* is madder than ever. So, take a pig's advice and run out and grab *Seasons Of Love* before the love-hunting season is out.

--Phillip Owens

ANGELIX - (Demo)

This tape has a good clean sound--for a demo. Anyone who is into good guitar crunch should send their five bucks and get this before the Dallas-based band runs out of copies. Your money would be well-spent on a promising young group.

Most of the songs on this project are typical Christian metal fare. With songs like

Turn To The Light, *God Won't Give Up*, and *Crash & Burn*, you pretty much know what to expect without a lyric sheet. The latter song and *Upon The Rock* are standout cuts that should please most headbangers.

The tune *Valley Of The Mountains* is one of my favorites, despite the fact that it seems to wander around a bit in subject. I like the fact that it begins slow and builds to an emotional "Take the mountain!" It is also an excellent diversion from standard metal.

The biggest flaw that I found is in the vocals. The singer (not named) has some excellent raw talent and promise. The arrangement of most of the songs suffers in that there is rarely a good mix of tight performance and "impromptu" emotion. The intensity sometimes seems staged and the production makes some of the background vocals appear unnecessary.

Performance on this tape is tight. The energy level of this project makes me sweat without working out. There is some fun here and a good collection of tunes to set your headphones hopping and keep your car stereo close to maximum level.

To order, send \$5 to: Wings Of Steel Ministry, PO Box 74111, Dallas TX 75374-1111.

--Michael Morris

"TOKI-LORE" - ST. LUTHER

Of the several tapes I had in front of me, I chose this one first. It was the "produced in the garage" look that got me. The sound is almost punk, but not quite; definitely alternative--let's say "unique".

The production is in desperate need of salvation. My "produced in the garage" observation seemed to be a righteous judgement. The lyrics are forward and creative and have a redeeming quality. This is not for you headbanger, no lead guitar and no crunch. Let me give a word of encouragement here: Has anyone ever heard Petra's first album? If you have, you know it's by God's grace they put out a second album. Look where they are now, so keep at it guys.

For ordering info, write: PO Box 371, Miamisburg OH 45342.

--Nelson Myers

"YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YA" - SOLD OUT

Shoot, these guys are good! Southern-fried rock and lyrics that speak right out. Lynyrd Skynyrd would be proud of that ole Southern sound.

The songs address real issues about turning from your "good ole' boy" partyin' life and serving God. They speak right out how Satan's got your soul and you need to repent...don't let that ole' devil get ya.

I really appreciated the way the lyrics jump out and challenge you. They have a song about this guy who had this chance many-o-time to tell his friend about Jesus, but he didn't. So, his friend died and he was filled with sorrow and guilt. Then the song goes on to exhort the listeners to preach the Word. Praise God man, we need to be encouraged to

do that!

So you honky-tonk Southern rockers, better scurry on down to the ole' mailbox and git while the gittin's good. For ordering info, write: Lois Sikes, 218 River Ridge Rd, Benton AR 72015. --Nelson Myers

"3 GEEKS AND A HIPPIE"--CHILDHOOD

Punkers and moshers brace yourself, Childhood plays grown-up punk. Is there a contradiction of terms here? In all reality though, these punks rock. This is the real McCoy.

I've only been recently getting tuned into the punk scene, still holding securely to my heavy metal roots. These guys got something to say and they say it in-your-face. I have come to the conclusion that's what punkers are known for, BLUNTNESS. So that's what it takes these days it seems. To a world that's getting "hard of hearing", this "scream in your ear at point blank" approach is most appropriate. It's like AM I GETTING THROUGH TO YOU?

So, check it out. The words are there. It's the Gospel man, at a hundred miles an hour, okay? If that isn't radical enough, the drummer, Daren, plays guitar also. I gotta see that! To order, send \$5 to: PO Box 4114, West Covina CA 91791.

--Nelson Myers

"PLUG IN" - PAUL HOWEY

This is the original one-man band. He does it all: lead and backing vocals, synth guitars, custom double kick drum kit, bass, and keyboards. He must be a busy man live in concert! But seriously, this is good stuff.

It is keyboard dominated, as you might have guessed, but it is clearly creative and energetic. The lyrics have a clear message of hope and, to tell you the truth, the clarity of the vocals was refreshing. You may get flashbacks of Phil Keaggy with this one; at least I did. It makes you wonder if Paul Howey has a studio in his basement. The entire project was well done, right down to the production.

Give it a listen man, I think you'll like it. To order, send \$4 to: Box 428080, Chicago IL 60642.

--Nelson Myers

CRAIG ERICKSON - (Demo)

This is a jazzy musical arrangement with excellent guitar. Craig Erickson is another one-man band. Needless to say, he wrote all the songs and played all the instruments. He makes me think, "Cut me some slack man, I'm still trying to learn how to play my guitar."

This is really some exceptional musical work here. Where has this guy been hiding? Along with his outstanding musicianship are some well-written lyrics...though a lot of his material was instrumental. If you really want to be entertained and awed, like I was at some of the guitar arrangements here, let Craig Erickson play for you. An address to bug him with requests to sell his music is: 1445 1st Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids IA 52402.

--Nelson Myers

"THE COMING" - PAROUSIA

Parousia's latest offering shows a lot of the band's potential. They remind me of a tame version of Racer X (secular LA band). The singer sounds a lot like Racer X's old singer, and the lead solos are just as fiery.

One obstacle I have usually found in young bands is that the rhythm section has some loose ends. Unfortunately, no exceptions here. It seems the drummer contradicts what the music is trying to do. Rather than laying a more solid foundation with expressive fills, we get more of the "speed on by" approach.

Anyway, enough! Overall, I enjoyed **The Coming**. Thumbs up on this venture guys! For ordering info, write: PO Box 0825, Arlington TX 76004.

--Joey Knight

"ROCK RACE" - TRAXTER

Traxter's full-length cassette hits it big with their music. The only thing lacking is vocals. Terrance Fisher's lead vocals seem to be lost in mega-effects, and the backing vocals seem to lack the ummph that causes metalheads to attract attention to themselves in driving traffic.

If you're one of many who claim not to listen to lyrics, only music--then grab this one while it's hot! For ordering info, write: PO Box 5284, Bakersfield CA 93388.

--Joey Knight

"DEVIL DESTROYERS" - DOUBLE EDGED

Double Edged lays down some heavy rhythms that cut the air with clarity and crunch. These guys, while still improving their music, have written three good songs here: **Bloody Promise**, **No Trouble**, and **Let My People Go**. Influences like Judas Priest and early Motley Crue are easy comparisons to this straight-ahead metal with more muscle than frills.

There's even a little fun, like the end of **No Trouble**, where vocalist/bassist Mike Brown screams out the letters "T-R-O-U-B-L-E" and then mutters "I betcha didn't think I could spell it--did ya?"

The title track suffers in the vocal lines written, which lack a real good hook, or melody. The vocals sound forced, rather than natural or really attacking and aggressive.

Waste Of Time is a musical departure--and vocal one as well, because guitarist James McElroy sings lead. It reminds me of the band Damascus.

Pretty fare outing. Available from Spring Arbor (# 000-138-8371).

--Doug Van Pelt

"APATHETIC DEATH" - THRESHING SLEDGE

Is this a good, thrashin' tape? You're dorn right! Here's a young band (I heard they've been musicians for less than a year!) with a ferocious attack on the musical mathematics (time) known in music. **Pride Kills** starts this tape off runnin'--and I mean

full speed. True speed aficionados will notice lots of gaps and a lack of tightness (sloppiness) in places, but will have to admit that the attitude and feel are there.

A must-have for those willing to wade through garage (live feeling) production. Definitely above average for underground thrash. For more info, write: 11 Green Tree Dr, West Chester PA 19382.

--Doug Van Pelt

"CRANK IT UP" -MYLON & BROKEN HEART

Finally, here's a Mylon album that I can review in Heaven's Metal and not fear total retribution from angry metalheads. The material here includes: some loud 'n' fast rockers here--**Denomination Demolition**, and the title track; a Southern rocker (what Mylon does best)--**World Changer**; some milder Southern stuff--**New Attitude**, and **Heaven**; several AC/Radio stuff that pays Mylon's bills; and even a James Taylor cover--**Shower The People**.

A step back in the right direction for this ole' Georgia boy. (How about some more of that high-energy Southern Blues Rock, like on **Live Forever**?)

--Doug Van Pelt

"BREAK THE CURSE" - LIGHTFORCE

The new lineup of Lightforce--Steve Rowe, Cameron Hall, and Jayson Sherlock--have created a nice work of thrash art. The chops of this three-piece are impressive. The band's tight...all they need is a new vocal style. Steve Rowe's vocals sound forced, coming across as unsincere and an underground imitation of Roger Martinez.

Songs like **Illusion Of Life** have some really cool chord patterns and bass riffs. The lyrics here, as well as throughout the album, are very hard hitting looks at reality:

"How can you guarantee yourself eternal life? Today you are here and tomorrow you die/ Do you know where you'll go when you're gone? There's only two ways to go, up or down/ You'd better decide."

Impulsation is an excellent tune with a deep groove and the best vocals on the tape.

An impressive follow-up to **Mystical Thieves**, plus it's tons better! To order, send a bank cheque or money order for A\$12 (that's 12 Australian dollars) made payable to Lightforce to: PO Box 339, Mentone, Vic., 3194 Australia.

--Doug Van Pelt

"SIN DISEASE" - scaterd-few
Alarma! Records (a division of Frontline Music Group) is a record company... I'm a magazine publisher... What are they doing by releasing music as good as scaterd-few...trying to be my friend or something?

A few words about this album: Raw, sincere, genuine, street-level, loud, original, creative, weird, artsy, punky, funky, and new. Definitely not everyone's cup of tea. Fans of **The Lead**, **scaterd-few**, **Breakfast With Amy**, **The Sex Pistols**, and **scaterd-few** will love it.

--Doug Van Pelt

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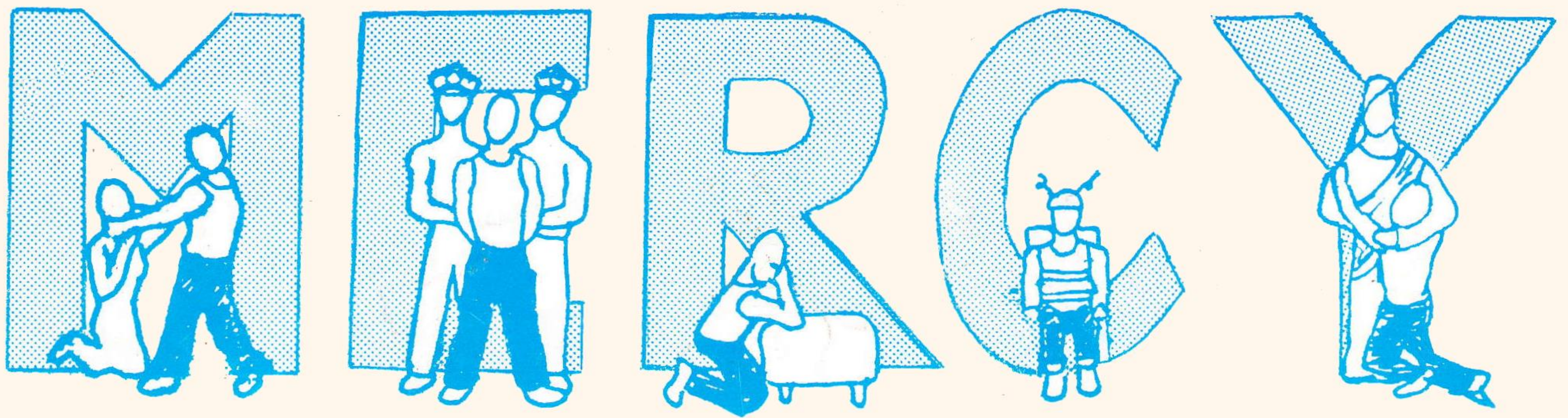
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"Mercy triumphs over judgement."

(James 2:13) When you show mercy to someone, you are deciding that you would rather be kind to that person than anything else. You are giving them a gift out of your free will. No one forces you to extend mercy to someone. It is an act of love.

This gift is worth a lot, especially when the person giving it has the ability to extend judgement. If you wrong someone, and they show mercy to you instead of vengeance or judgement, you probably value and appreciate that mercy a whole lot.

Imagine if someone showed you contempt: They spit in your face, and did things that they knew would hurt your feelings. You try to show mercy to them and even give them gifts, but they refuse your acts of kindness and take your gifts for granted. Now, imagine if you had the ability to make this person pay for their ingratitude. Let's say you had the power to make them feel pain...real agonizing pain that would let them know how much they hurt you. Would you do it?

This is the same way we have treated

God. He has the power and every right to throw us in hell and make us experience the most incredible pain of all: eternal separation from Him. He could annihilate us immediately, but He doesn't. "He is rich in mercy," (Ephesians 2:4) and "His mercy endures forever." (Psalm 136) For as far back as you want to peer into history, you will see God's mercy extended towards man.

One of my favorite glimpses into His mercy is the ark of the covenant. It is a picture, or "type", of Jesus Himself. Inside the ark were tablets of the Law, which represents His perfection and His ability to judge. Outside the ark was the mercy seat. It covered the Law, just as "love covers a multitude of sins." (1 Peter 4:8) If you were exposed to the judgement or Law of God without His mercy in between you and His Law, you would be condemned to die, just as 50,070 men of Beth-shemesh were struck dead after some of them lifted the mercy seat off the ark and gazed at the tablets of Law. (1 Samuel 6:19)

Therefore, do not neglect God's

mercy, His free gift of salvation. Simply appropriate His mercy by saying, "I receive this mercy for me. I gladly accept the sacrificial death of Jesus as payment for my sin and my rebellion."

Now that you've fallen "into the hand of the Lord;" (2 Samuel 24:14) and He has saved you "according to His mercy," (Titus 3:5) extend that same mercy to others... For "blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." (Matthew 5:7)

We are encouraged by the Lord to "put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience;" (Colossians 3:12) and "have mercy on some, who are doubting; save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh." (Jude 22, 23)

"Don't grow weary in doing good," (Galatians 6:9) but if you do; "draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)



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